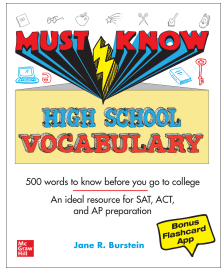
MUST KNOW
HIGH SCHOOL
VOCABULARY
500 words to know before you go to college
An ideal resource for SAT, ACT,
and AP preparation
Bonus
Flashcard
App
Jane R. Burstein

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New York Chicago San Francisco Athens London Madrid
Mexico City Milan New Delhi Singapore Sydney Toronto

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Introduction

Welcome to your new vocabulary book! Let us try to explain why we believe you've made the right choice. You may have found that a lot of books make a lot of promises about all the things you'll be able to accomplish by the time you reach the end of a given chapter. In the process, those books can make you feel as though you missed out on the building blocks that you actually need to master those goals. You've probably also had your fill of books asking you to simply memorize lots of terms. This book isn't going to do that. Although you're welcome to memorize anything you take an interest in, this book takes it a step further.

With *Must Know High School Vocabulary,* we've taken a different approach. When you start a new chapter, right off the bat you will immediately see one or more **must know** ideas. These are the essential concepts behind what you are going to study, and they will form the foundation of what you will learn throughout the chapter. These **must know** ideas will be your guide as you make your way through each chapter.

To build on this foundation you will find easy-to-follow discussions of the topic at hand, accompanied by a comprehensive list of words presented in context, as well as related words that will increase your ability to understand and remember the vocabulary. Each chapter ends with review questions—nearly 250 appear throughout the book—designed to instill confidence as you practice your new skills.

This book has other features that will help you on this vocabulary journey of yours. It has a number of sidebars that will either provide helpful information or just serve as a quick break from your studies. The BTW sidebars ("by the way") point out important information as well as tell you what to be careful about vocabulary-wise. Every once in a while, an IRL sidebar ("in real life") will tell you how what you're studying relates to the real world; other IRLs may just be

interesting factoids.

In addition, this book is accompanied by a flashcard app that will give you the ability to test yourself at any time. The app includes 100 "flashcards" with a review word on one "side" and the answer on the other. You can either work through the flashcards by themselves or use them alongside the book. To find out where to get the app and how to use it, go to the next section, "The Flashcard App."

Before you get started, however, let us introduce you to your guide throughout this book. Jane Burstein has over 30 years' experience as an English Language Arts educator at all levels, from middle school to college. In addition, she is a private tutor for standardized tests, has written a guidebook for prospective teachers, and has coauthored or edited over a dozen more books on English-related topics. She understands what you should get out of a vocabulary course and has developed strategies to help you get there. Jane has also seen the kinds of trouble that students run into (see, for example, Chapter 8, "Commonly Confused Words"), and she can show you how to overcome these difficulties. In this book, she applies her teaching experience to show you the most effective way to learn a given concept. We have the great confidence in Jane (just read her Author's Note and you will too!) and are excited to leave you in her trustworthy hands as you expand your vocabulary knowledge and develop new skills.

Before we leave you to the author's sure-footed guidance, let us give you one piece of advice. While we know that saying something "is the *worst*" is a cliché, if anything *is* the worst in studying vocabulary it might be knowing how to choose between confusing words like ***who*** or ***whom*** and ***affect*** or ***effect***. Let Jane clear up that confusion so you can always feel confident about your vocabulary!

Good luck with your studies!

The Editors at McGraw Hill

The Flashcard App

This book features a bonus flashcard app to help you test yourself on what you have learned as you make your way through the book. The app includes 100 vocabulary flashcards featuring the 100 most commonly used words from the 500 words included in the book. The word is on the front of the card, and the pronunciation, definition, and context sentence are on the back. The book gives you two options for using the flashcards. You can jump right into the app and start from any point that you want. Or you can take advantage of the handy QR Codes near the end of applicable chapters in the book; they will take you directly to the flashcards related to what you're studying at the moment.

To access the flashcard feature, follow these simple steps:

Search for the McGraw Hill Must Know App from either Google Play or the App Store.
Download the app to your smartphone or tablet.
Once you've got the app, you can use it in either of two ways.
Just open the app and you're ready to go.
You can start at the beginning, or select any of the chapters listed.
Use your phone's QR code reader to scan any of the book's QR codes.
You'll be taken directly to the flashcards that match your chapter of choice.
Be ready to test your vocabulary knowledge!

Author's Note

Welcome to the wonderful world of vocabulary!

If you're in high school, you most likely have been studying lists of vocabulary words for years. And, like the students in my English classes, you frequently question why there are so many words that have almost the same meaning. I try to answer that question with an analogy: an artist needs many colors, and a writer or speaker needs many words. Words are the paintbox of writers: just as artists need a variety of hues to make their art more expressive and beautiful, so writers seek the perfect words to convey their knowledge, thoughts, and emotions. And, in speech, we all know the familiar feeling of searching for the right word to express our feelings or thoughts or opinions. When we do find just the right word to convey precisely what we want to say, it is an amazing feeling. Clearly, understanding a concept or seeing just the picture in your mind that a writer wants to create is a blessing for both readers and writers.

Vocabulary is essential to learning. Educators recognize the importance of a broad knowledge of many words and agree that strong vocabulary is critical to personal and academic success for many reasons: word knowledge helps you read faster, understand abstract concepts better, perform more successfully on standardized tests, and achieve your goals in school and in real life.

In the past decade, high school courses have increasingly emphasized the importance of complex texts—writing that challenges the reader to comprehend an abstract idea, to visualize a scientific concept, to imagine a character's conflict, or to follow a sustained argument. My students often find that they are frustrated when they are reading a novel or science article or historical document and they encounter unfamiliar words that are key to understanding the writer's point. Very few readers have the time (or the inclination!) to stop and look up words while they are trying to complete a reading assignment.

To help you navigate the world of complex texts, I have included words in this book that are frequently found there—the 500 **must know**

high school vocabulary words that will help you understand your reading in high school, on standardized tests like the SAT and the ACT, on AP tests, in college, and in life.

To begin our vocabulary study, we'll take a look at ways for you to figure out what a word means. You will learn, for example, two "go-to" methods of figuring out the meaning when a definition of a word in a text doesn't immediately come to mind as you are reading: *word analysis skills* can help you take the word apart to see if you recognize the root or the prefix, and *context clue analysis* will activate your ability to use clues embedded in the context to help figure out the meaning of the word or phrase. These are the methods good readers use automatically as they are reading. But because these methods take some time, and you won't always be able to figure out a word's meaning on your own, this book will help you learn the words that are part of what educators call your *academic vocabulary* to help you increase the speed and ease with which you read.

Academic vocabulary consists of words classified as Tier 2 words, words that are frequently found in complex texts across diverse content areas (for example, *admonition* or *benevolent*), and Tier 3 words, words that are content-specific (specific to a subject, like *isotope* or *algorithm*). (Tier 1 words are basic words that commonly appear in speech and writing. These are words that you most likely already know, like *contact* or *occasional*.)

Of course, the best way to increase your vocabulary is to read, read, read! When you read, you see words in context, and you become *adept* (skillful) at using clues embedded in the context to help you determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. But in real life, as you are trying to take the SAT or ACT or complete reading assignments in literature, science articles, historical documents, and social science arguments (as well as eat, sleep, and have some kind of social life), you probably don't have the time to embark on an extensive reading program. That's where this book steps in. By working through the chapters and the practices in this book, you will develop the vocabulary skills you **must know** to become a skillful and successful reader in high school and beyond—in your job, in college, and in real life.

Organization

This book is divided into 11 chapters plus an appendix. The first chapter builds your word analysis skills: knowledge of roots and prefixes and suffixes can help you take a word apart to determine its meaning. Chapters 2 through 10 are organized semantically around word

meanings, thematically around content areas, or specifically around historical periods (for example, words found in historical documents or speeches). In each chapter you will find vocabulary words in groups that will help make understanding their meanings easier and more logical. Each vocabulary entry provides you with the following information:

- **Part of speech:** Is the word a noun, verb, adjective, adverb, conjunction, or preposition? Can it be used as more than one part of speech?
- **Pronunciation:** If you hear the word pronounced, what will it sound like?
- **One or more definitions:** Does this word have more than one meaning?
- **Related words:** What other words will you understand if you know this word?
- **In context:** How is this word used in context? Each entry includes an example sentence, or sometimes two, using the word in context. In some cases, the sentence I have used is the same as, or similar to, the use of the word in a well-known literary work, a science or social science text, a historical document, or a reading passage on the SAT, ACT, or AP tests.
- **Notes/tips or cautions about usage:** Is there something you should know about how the word is used? When relevant, I have included tips on the way(s) the word is used.
- **Tips to help you remember the word:** Are there any clues or "tricks" to remembering the meaning of this word? When applicable, I have given you ways to remember the definitions.

Good luck! You are on your way to an amazing vocabulary!

1 Analysis Skills

MUST KNOW

Many words are comprised of parts: prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Knowing the meaning of the parts can help you figure out the meaning of the whole word.

You probably already know lots of words; after all, you have been communicating using language for years and are attending classes in school that often require a significant amount of reading and writing. However, you have probably noticed that many words found in your reading aren't used that often in casual conversation. How are you supposed to have a working knowledge of so many words that you encounter so infrequently? The most obvious answer is that the more you read, the more words you are exposed to. So now, if you had a few years (and lots of stamina), you could embark on a serious reading project to fill in the gaps in your vocabulary. Or, you could use the tools in this book to help you simplify and speed up the process.

Most words in the English language were borrowed from other languages, usually Latin or Greek. It will be useful for you learn some of the common origins, or *roots,* of words, and the *affixes,* the parts that are added to the beginnings or ends of the words. The affixes include the *prefixes* (parts of the word that come before the root) and the *suffixes* (parts of the word that follow the root). Knowing the meaning of the root, the prefix, and the suffix can help you figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words.

BTW

A prefix is written with a hyphen after it to indicate that it comes at the beginning of a word (ex. pre-); a suffix is written with a hyphen before it to indicate that it comes at the end of a word (ex. -ness); a root is written without any hyphen.

We suggest you review the lists of prefixes, roots, and suffixes in this chapter and then, when doing your own reading, remain alert to words that lend themselves to word analysis. Try to break down unfamiliar words into their components—prefix, root, suffix—to work out the meaning. Think of the time you spend studying as time well spent, because knowing one root may enable you to figure out many different words. To help you study, use the flashcards that accompany this book.

The following tables present some common prefixes, roots, and suffixes for you to review and become familiar with.

Prefixes

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
a-	not, without	*atypical* (not typical), *amoral* (without morals)
ab-	away from	*abnormal* (not normal), *abstain* (to refrain from)
ambi-	both	*ambidextrous* (skillful with both hands), *ambivalent* (seeing both sides)
auto-	self	*autonomy* (self-rule), *automobile* (self-propelled)
bene-	good	*benefit* (promotes well-being), *beneficent* (performing acts of kindness)
circum-	around	*circumnavigate* (travel around), *circumscribe* (to draw a circle around or to restrict within bounds)
con-, com-	with, together	*congregate* (gather together), *congruent* (in agreement), *community* (a group of people living together)
contra-	against	*contradict* (to speak against), *contrary* (opposed to)
de-	down, away; also reverses the meaning of the root word	*descend* (to go down), *decelerate* (to decrease speed); *destabilize* (to make unstable)
dis-	lack of or not	*disorganization* (lack of organization)
dys-	bad, ill	*dysfunction* (impaired function), *dyslectic* or *dyslexic* (impairment of the ability to read)
en-	to put into, to cause to be, to go into	*encapsulate* (to put into a capsule, to offer in brief form), *enfold* (to wrap up in something)
eu-	good	*euphoria* (a feeling of happiness), *euphony* (pleasant sounds)
ex-	away from, out of	*expatriate* (one who lives away from his or her native land), *exonerate* (take away blame)
hetero-	different	*heterogeneous* (different)
homo-	same	*homogeneous* (same)
il-, im-, in-, ir-	not	*illogical* (not logical), *illicit* (not lawful), *improbable* (not likely), *indefensible* (unable to be defended), *irreducible* (not able to be reduced)
inter-	between	*intervene* (to come in between)

inter-	between	*intervene* (to come in between)
intra-	within	*intrastate* (within the state)
mal-	bad	*malign* (to speak badly of), *malignant* (evil, harmful)
micro-	small	*microcosm* (miniature world)
mis-	bad, wrong	*misconduct* (bad conduct), *misaligned* (wrongly aligned)
mono-	one	*monopoly* (exclusive control by one group), *monotheism* (belief in one god)
multi-	many	*multifaceted* (many sided), *multifarious* (varied, diverse)
neo-	new	*neologism* (new word), *neophyte* (beginner)
ob-	against	*object* (to express opposition), *obdurate* (hardened against feeling)
philo-	lover	*philanthropist* (lover of mankind)
poly-	many	*polygon* (a many-sided figure), *polyglot* (composed of several languages)
pre-	before	*presage* (to know beforehand), *precedent* (what has previously occurred and may be used as an example)
pro-	forward, in favor of	*proponent* (one who is in favor of), *progress* (to go forward)
pseudo-	false	*pseudonym* (a false name)
re-	again	*renovate* (to make new again), *recapitulate* (to repeat in brief form)
retro-	back	*retrospect* (to look at the past)
sub-	below, under	*subordinate* (belonging to a lower class), *submission* (being under the power of another)
super-	above, beyond	*superfluous* (beyond what is needed; extra), *superlative* (of the highest order)
sym-, syn-	with, together	*symmetry* (an even relationship of parts), *synchronize* (to occur at the same time)
trans-	across	*transmit* (to send from one person or place to another), *transplant* (to move from one place to another)
un-	not	*uneventful* (without incident), *unfruitful* (not productive)

Let's take a look at how prefixes work:

EXAMPLE

micro-

- *Biology* is the study of life forms (*bio*: life; *-ology:* study of).
- The prefix *micro-* means small.

- Now let's add the prefix *micro-* to the beginning of the word *biology*.
- Micro- + biology = *microbiology*. Microbiology is the study of very small life forms.

Apply your knowledge:

Can you figure out what microflora means?

> Micro- + flora means tiny plants; examples are bacteria and microscopic algae and fungi, especially those living in a particular site or habitat.
>
> In context: Scientists investigated the mysterious **microflora** to find clues to the disappearance of the fish in the area.

EXAMPLE

dis-

- *Order* is a systematic arrangement or pattern.
- The prefix *dis-* means lack of or not.
- Let's add the prefix *dis-* to the beginning of the word *order*.
- Dis- + order = *disorder*. *Disorder* is a state of confusion or messiness (a lack of order).

Apply your knowledge:

Can you figure out what *discomfort* means?

> Dis- + comfort means slight pain (or lack of being comfortable).
>
> In context: The **discomfort** in Seth's back did not stop him from joining the dancing.

EXAMPLE

mal-

- *Adroit* is an adjective that means clever or skillful.
- The prefix *mal-* means bad.
- Let's add the prefix *mal-* to the word *adroit*.
- Mal- + adroit = *maladroit*. *Maladroit* means clumsy or unskillful.

Apply your knowledge:

Can you figure out what maladjusted means?

Mal- + adjusted means poorly adjusted.

In context: The **maladjusted** young man refused to participate in the social gathering.

Roots

Common Roots

Root	Meaning	Examples
ami, amic	friend	*amiable* (friendly), *amicable* (friendly)
anthropo	mankind	*anthropology* (the study of humans and their works), *misanthrope* (one who dislikes people)
aud	hearing	*audible* (able to be heard)
bell, belli	war	*belligerence* (warlike or aggressive behavior), *bellicose* (eager to fight)
bene	good	*benefactor* (one who helps others)
bio	life	*biography* (the story of someone's life), *antibiotic* (a chemical substance that kills bacteria)
brev	brief, short	*abbreviation* (a shortened version), *brevity* (briefness)
cap	take, seize	*capture* (to take prisoner or to seize), *captivate* (to hold the attention of)
ced	to go, yield	*accede* (to give consent), *secede* (to withdraw from)
chron	time	*chronological* (in time order), *anachronism* (something out of place in time)
cogn	know	*cognition* (the process of knowing)
cred	believe	*incredulous* (disbelieving), *credulous* (gullible)
culp	guilt, fault, blame	*culprit* (a guilty person), *exculpate* (free from guilt)
cur, curs	to run	*concurrent* (running at the same time)
demo	people	*democracy* (rule by the people), *epidemic* (a disease that affects many people)
dic	speak, say	*dictate* (a command), *dictum* (an authoritative pronouncement)
epi	upon, following, among	*epidemic* (spreading among the people)
equ	uniform, balanced, equal	*equilibrium* (in an evenly balanced state)

fac, fec, fic	to make or do	*effective* (to make useful), *malefactor* (one who makes evil)
gen	birth, origin	*generate* (to create or breed), *progeny* (offspring)
graph	writing	*autobiography* (the life story of the writer)
greg	group	*gregarious* (sociable; likes to be in a group), *aggregate* (to cluster together)
gress	to step or move	*regress* (to move backward)
laud	praise	*plaudit* (an expression of praise or approval)
luc	light	*elucidate* (to clarify), *lucid* (clear or comprehensible)
magna/ magni	great, large	*magnanimous* (generous), *magnify* (to make larger)
min	small	*minute* (very small)
mort	death	*moratorium* (an official halt in an activity), *immortal* (not subject to death)
mut	change	*mutation* (a change in form), *transmute* (to change from one form to another)
nov	new	*novice* (a beginner), *novelty* (something new)
nym, nom	name	*pseudonym* (false name), *nominal* (in name only; insignificantly small)
pac	peace	*pacifist* (one who is peace-loving)
path	feeling	*sympathy* (compassion; understanding), *apathy* (without feelings)
phon	sound	*euphony* (pleasant sounds), *cacophony* (unpleasant sounds)
photo	light	*photograph* (a picture made by the action of light on a sensitized plate)
pugn, pug	fight	*pugnacious* (tending to fight), *pugilist* (a fighter or a boxer)
quer, quis	ask	*query* (question), *inquisitive* (curious or inquiring)

sci	to know	*science* (knowledge of the material or physical world)
scrib, scrip	to write	*prescription* (a written direction)
sens, sent	to feel	*sensitive* (have feelings for others), *sentient* (having sensation or consciousness)
simil	same	*similitude* (similarity)
son	sound	*sonar* (a method of locating objects using sound waves)
soph	wisdom	*philosopher* (one who investigates profound questions of life)
spec	to look	*circumspect* (caution; looking around carefully)
sta, stat	stay in position	*stagnant* (lack of movement or development), *stationary* (unmoving)
temp	time	*temporary* (lasting only for a specific time period; not permanent), *temporal* (pertaining to time)
terra	earth	*terrestrial* (living on land), *terrain* (an area of land or ground)
theo	god	*theocracy* (government in which god is supreme ruler), *atheist* (one who denies the existence of god)
vac	empty	*vacuum* (a space empty of matter), *vacuity* (absence of thought or intelligence)
ver	truth	*verify* (to prove true), *verity* (truth)
vert	to turn	*convert* (to change in form or purpose), *invert* (to turn upside down)
vit, vi	life	*vital* (essential to life), *vivacity* (liveliness)
voc	call	*vocal* (spoken aloud), *revoke* (to call back)

The neat part about learning roots is that knowing the meaning of one word can give you clues to the meanings of many other words.

Let's see how that works:

EXAMPLE

- The root *bene* means good. You are most likely familiar with the word *benefit*. The noun *benefit* is an advantage or a profit gained from something. *Benefit* can also be a verb meaning to receive or confer an advantage or a profit. Either way, *benefit* is strongly positive word, something good, something to be desired.

Apply your knowledge:

If you encounter the words *benefactor* (noun) or *beneficence* (noun), can you determine their meanings?

> In context: Young Pip was amazed at the **beneficence** of his **benefactor**.

You can safely assume that *beneficence* and *benefactor* are words that relate to doing good or helping others. In fact, a *benefactor* is one who helps others (often by giving money), and *beneficence* means generosity.

EXAMPLE

> The root *magna/magni* means large or great. Most likely, you have encountered the verb *magnify,* which means to make larger (like a magnifying glass). You can reasonably assume that words with the root *magna/magni* will have something to do with being large.

Apply your knowledge:

If you read about the *magnitude* of an event, can you figure out the meaning of the word?

> In context: The earthquake was of such **magnitude** that the whole city was destroyed.

You can be reasonably certain that it will be an event of some significance, a great event, but not necessarily a good event. In fact, earthquakes are measured in *magnitudes. Magnitude* is also the measure of the brightness of a star.

EXAMPLE

> The root *brev* means short. You most likely know that an **abbreviation** is a shortened version of a word. Many of the words that contain the root *brev* have to do with shortness or conciseness.

Apply your knowledge:

Can you figure out what the word *brevity* means?

> In context: In the incredibly hot and stuffy auditorium, we were all

relieved by the **brevity** of the speeches.

Brevity means briefness, and, in a hot and stuffy auditorium, brief speeches are welcome.

Suffixes

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-able, -ible	able, can do	*portable* (able to be carried)
-agogue	leader	*demagogue* (one who gains power by false promises)
-cide	to kill	*patricide* (the killing of the father), *homicide* (the killing of a person)
-er, -or, -eur	one who	*saboteur* (one who sabotages)
-ish	resembling	*foolish* (resembling a fool)
-ism	belief in	*socialism* (a system of government based on community ownership)
-ly	like	*innocuously* (in a harmless manner)
-ness	state of	*credulousness* (a state of believing everything), *happiness* (state of being happy)
-ology	study of	*psychology* (the study of the human mind)
-philo	lover	*bibliophile* (lover of books)
-phobia	fear of or hatred of	*acrophobia* (fear of heights)
-tude	state of	*certitude* (certainty), *rectitude* (rightness)

Suffixes serve two functions: Suffixes may change the grammatical function or part of speech of the original word, or they may change its meaning.

EXAMPLE

Suffixes that change the part of speech of a word

Happy is an adjective that means cheerful or pleased. If you change the *y* to *i* and add the suffix *-ness,* the adjective *happy* becomes the noun *happiness.* The essential meaning is not changed, but the part of speech is.

EXAMPLE

Suffixes that change the meaning of a word

Arachnids are spiders. *Phile (philo, philic)* is a suffix that means a lover of. *Phobia (phobic)* is a suffix that means fear of or dislike of.

Apply your knowledge:

What do you think an arachnophile is?

What do you think arachnophobia means?

> In context: The **arachnophile** spent many happy months searching for 8-legged creatures in the woods.
>
> In context: So **arachnophobic** that she was unable to go camping with her friends, Priya spent the night in a blessedly clean and creature-free hotel.

Using your word analysis skills, you can figure out that an *arachnophile* loves spiders, while one who is *arachnophobic* fears them.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 1-1

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. The prefix *ambi-* means _____.
2. Give an example of a word with the prefix *ambi-*: _____.
3. The prefix *mal-* means _____.
4. Give an example of a word with the prefix *mal-*: _____.
5. The root *bio* means _____.
6. Give an example of a word with the root *bio*: _____.
7. The root *demo* means _____.
8. Give an example of a word with the root *demo*: _____.
9. The root *laud* means _____.
10. Give an example of a word with the root *laud*: _____.
11. The root *nov* means _____.
12. Give an example of a word with the root *nov*: _____.

13. The root *mort* means _____.
14. Give an example of a word with the root *mort*: _____.
15. The root *spec* means _____.
16. Give an example of a word with the root *spec*: _____.
17. The root *voc* means _____.
18. Give an example of a word with the root *voc*: _____.
19. The suffix *-philo* means _____.
20. Give an example of a word with the suffix *-philo*: _____.

EXERCISE 1-2

Use your word analysis skills to select the best choice to fill in the blanks.

1. My uncle is so _____ that he has given much of his money away to charities.

   A. malcontent
   B. magnanimous
   C. pugnacious
   D. misaligned

2. The word meme is a _____, a word coined fairly recently in the 1970s.

   A. neologism
   B. dystopia
   C. circumlocution
   D. autonomy

3. Control of an industry by one group is referred to as a _____.

   A. microcosm
   B. demographic
   C. monopoly
   D. misalignment

4. Magellan is famed for _____ the globe.

   A. contradicting
   B. circumnavigating
   C. destabilizing
   D. subordinating

5. Mark Twain is the _____ of Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

   A. polyglot
   B. progeny
   C. pseudonym
   D. biography

6. The _____ attended every anti-war protest to express her support.

   A. culprit
   B. dictator
   C. immortal
   D. pacifist

7. The history book was arranged _____, from ancient times to modern times.

   A. thematically
   B. chronologically
   C. credibly
   D. cognitively

8. Joe honked _____ at the car in front of him, raising his fist and shouting, “Move!”

   A. belligerently
   B. amicably
   C. multifariously
   D. disinterestedly

9. An electrified fence was erected around the prison to _____ escape by the prisoners.

   A. benefit
   B. malign
   C. circumscribe
   D. renovate

10. The inventor’s idea was a _____ one as it was unprecedented.

    A. recapitulated
    B. novel
    C. superfluous
    D. unfruitful

2 Positive Meanings

MUST KNOW

- Words with positive connotations are associated with favorable feelings toward someone or something.

How do you understand a writer's attitude toward his or her subject? Understanding writers' attitudes toward their subject or toward some aspect of their argument is frequently essential to comprehending a complex text. You will often need to carefully note a writer's attitude toward a piece of information, another person's position, an action, or a conclusion. When you read, your clues to understanding attitude are found in the writer's diction, or word choice. Knowing the meanings of words is essential to assist you in determining whether a writer is expressing positive feelings or negative feeling toward the subject matter. This understanding can clarify the overall meaning of what you are reading, whether it is understanding a character's motivation in a novel, following the writer's argument in an editorial, interpreting the speaker's purpose in a speech from an earlier century, or justifying decision-making by an environmentalist. Developing this insight into attitude is especially helpful on standardized tests and AP tests because questions will often require you to analyze a writer's perspective.

For each word entry in this book, you will find a pronunciation guide, the part of speech, the definition, an example of the word in context, and related words. In the pronunciation guide, the apostrophe (ˈ) indicates the accented syllable. Capital letters (SH) indicate the two letters form one sound. Parentheses around a letter (ə) indicate that the letter is barely pronounced.

Pronunciation symbols guide

ā = the long ***a*** sound in ate
ä = the ***a*** sound in harm
ə = the ***a*** sound in balloon
ē = the long ***e*** sound in meet
ī = the long i sound in ice
ô = the ***aw*** sound in awe
o͞o = the long ***o*** sound in hoot
û = the ***u*** sound in cup
o͝o = the ***u*** sound in put

The following words are often used to express a positive description, position, or attitude. To be sure you understand the word when it is used in context, study the meanings of the words. The "In context" example is there to help you see how the word might be used in a complex text.

1. **Acclaim** [əˈklām] (noun): Acclaim means high praise.

   In context: Greg's excellent short story won great **acclaim** from the literary community.

2. **Accolade** [akəˌlād] (noun): An accolade is high praise or special distinction.

   In context: Everyone offered **accolades** to Samson after he defeated his enemies in battle.

3. **Acumen** [əˈkyo͞omən, ˈakyəmən] (noun): Acumen is quickness of intellectual insight.

   In context: Kenan's business **acumen** contributed to his selection as treasurer of the school's Young Entrepreneur's

Club.

4. **Adulation** [ajəˈlāSH(ə)n] (noun): Adulation means extreme praise.

   In context: Though the play was excellent, Martin didn't think it deserved the overwhelming **adulation** it received from its audience.

5. **Advocate** [ˈadvəkət] (verb or noun): To advocate (verb) means to argue in favor of. An advocate (noun) is a person who argues in favor.

   In context: As the owner of a therapy dog, Maria felt compelled to **advocate** (verb) overturning the campus rule about allowing pets in the dorms. She later became an **advocate** (noun) for all students' rights.

6. **Affable** [ˈafəb(ə)l] (adjective): Affable means friendly, amiable.

   In context: Everyone likes to be around Jorge because he is so **affable** and kindhearted.

7. **Affirmative** [əˈfərmətiv] (adjective): Affirmative means agreeing with a statement or to a request.

   In context: By sending an **affirmative** response to the request, Byron signified his acceptance of the new contract.

8. **Alacrity** [əˈlakrətē] (noun): Alacrity means cheerful promptness or readiness.

   In context: The principal was pleasantly surprised by the **alacrity** with which the students responded to his call for food drive volunteers.

If you have a friendly acquaintance named Amy, you are set with this one. Otherwise, simply pretend you do know a friendly Amy!

9. **Amiable** [ˈāmēəb(ə)l] (adjective): Amiable means friendly and easy to get along with.

   In context: My new friend Amy is quite **amiable** and is often the first one to greet a newcomer and welcome her to our group.

   Related words:

Amity (noun): Amity means friendship.

Amicable (adjective): Amicable means friendly or agreeable.

10. **Auspicious:** [ô'spiSHəs] (adjective): Auspicious means favorable or promising.

    In context: Superstitious people often believe that a rainbow is an **auspicious** symbol, promising good luck and prosperity.

11. **Avid** ['avəd] (adjective): Avid means actively interested or enthusiastic.

BTW

Beneficent *belongs to a whole group of "bene" words, all of which convey the sense of "good." (We reviewed these in the Roots section in Chapter 1.)*

In context: Jose is an **avid** reader of graphic novels as you can see by the collection posted on his website.

12. **Beneficent** [bə'nefəsənt] (adjective): Beneficent means generous or doing good.

    In context: Under the **beneficent** leadership of their teacher, the students spent their weekends helping elderly neighbors clear the deep snow from their front walks.

    Related words:

    Remembering that the root *bene* means good, you can figure out the meanings of many words, for example, **benevolent** (an adjective meaning kind), **benefactor** (a noun meaning one who does good deeds), and **beneficiary** (a noun meaning one who benefits).

13. **Bliss** [blis] (noun): Bliss means perfect happiness or great joy.

    In context: Joy gave a sigh of **bliss** as she successfully navigated the complexities of quadratic equations.

    Related word:

    Blissful (adjective): Blissful means joyful.

BTW

Associating **bountiful** *with its sound-alike plentiful will help you remember both words!*

14. **Bountiful** ['boun(t)əfəl] (adjective): Bountiful means abundant or plentiful.

    In context: The parents provided a **bountiful** supply of food for the senior picnic, and we were stuffed by the time we left.

    Related word:

    Bounty (noun): Bounty means reward or compensation. (Think of bounty hunters who receive a reward for capturing an outlaw.)

15. **Bullish** [bo͝o-lish] (adjective): Bullish means marked by a feeling of hopefulness.

    In context: The bankers were feeling **bullish** about the prospects for an economic recovery after the recession.

A bull market refers to a stock market when the economy is sound or improving; a bear market refers to an economy that is receding, with most stocks declining in value.

If you think of a **buoy** *floating in the water, you can visualize the light-hearted feeling and relate it to a feeling of cheerfulness.*

16. **Buoyancy** ['boiənsē, 'bo͞oyənsē] (noun): Buoyancy means an optimistic or cheerful disposition; light-heartedness.

    In context: The **buoyancy** of the children on the last day of school was apparent as they raced out the school doors with big smiles on their faces.

    Related word:

BTW

Easy to remember if you think about celebrating a **celebrated** *person!*

Buoyant (adjective): Buoyant means cheerful or able to float.

17. **Celebrated** [selə¸brātəd] (adjective): Celebrated means greatly admired or renowned.

    In context: The **celebrated** astronauts received a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

18. **Charismatic** [kerəz'matik] (adjective): Charismatic means having great charm or personal magnetism.

    In context: A young and **charismatic** leader, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president, ushered in a new political atmosphere in America.

    Related word:

    Charisma (noun): Charisma means personal charm and magnetism.

19. **Clairvoyant** [kler'voiənt] (noun or adjective): A clairvoyant (noun) is a person who has the ability to see the future. One who is described as clairvoyant (adjective) has this psychic ability.

    In context: Nostradamus (1503–66) was a **clairvoyant** (noun) whose prophesies of natural disasters were famous worldwide. His **clairvoyant** (adjective) abilities are accepted as truth by many.

20. **Congenial** [kən'jēnēəl] (adjective): Congenial means pleasant, easy to get along with, compatible or likeable.

    In context: I was both relieved and pleased to find that my college roommates were a **congenial** group.

    Related word:

BTW

You can use your word analysis skills to figure out the meaning of **convivial***:*

The prefix **con-** *(with) + the root* **vi** *(life) = with life or lively!*

Congeniality (noun): Congeniality means friendliness or sociability.

21. **Convivial** [kənˈvivēəl] (adjective): Convivial means lively or friendly.

    In context: I was pleased to be invited to join the group of **convivial** students sitting out in the courtyard.

22. **Correctitude** [kəˈrektəˌt(y)o͞od] (noun): Correctitude means correctness, especially in behavior.

    In context: Ms. North, a stickler for proper behavior, was often called upon to comment on the **correctitude** of an action.

23. **Dauntless** [ˈdôntləs, ˈdäntləs] (adjective): Dauntless means bold or fearless.

    In context: **Dauntless**, 10-year-old Lila marched toward the giant roller coaster.

    Related word:

    Daunt (verb): To daunt means to make someone feel intimidated or discouraged.

24. **Deference** [ˈdef(ə)rəns] (noun): Deference means the respect given to a superior or an elder.

    In context: In **deference** to her parents' wishes, Elana returned home immediately after her basketball game.

    Related word:

    Deferential (adjective): Deferential means respectful toward someone viewed as superior.

25. **Diplomatic** [ˌdipləˈmatik] (adjective): Diplomatic means having the quality of a good diplomat (someone who is engaged in international relations like an ambassador). A diplomatic person has skill in managing stressful situations with tact and consideration.

    In context: It is important to be **diplomatic** when trying to reconcile two opposing viewpoints in a social setting.

26. **Discerning** [dəˈsərning] (adjective): Discerning means having keen insight or good judgment.

    In context: Only a **discerning** person can tell the difference between the authentic painting and a good forgery.

    Related word:

    Discern (verb): To discern means to perceive or recognize something.

27. **Distinguished** [dəˈstiNGgwiSHt] (adjective): Distinguished means commanding great respect.

    In context: The **distinguished** speaker drew loud applause from the admiring audience.

28. **Ebullient** [iˈbo͝olyənt, iˈbəlyənt] (adjective): Ebullient means cheerful and full of energy.

    In context: Their energy beginning to droop, the football team was revitalized by the **ebullient** cheerleaders and enthusiastic spectators.

    Related word:

    Ebullience (noun): Ebullience means energy and cheerfulness.

29. **Effervescent** [efərˈves(ə)nt] (adjective): Effervescent means carbonated or fizzy (as in soda) or sparkly and high-spirited (as in a lively personality).

    In context: In the film, the actor portrayed an **effervescent** young woman who entranced fans with her lively spirit wherever she appeared.

30. **Eloquent** [ˈeləkwənt] (adjective): Eloquent means characterized by forceful and effective expression in speech and/or writing.

    In context: Lincoln's First Inaugural Address (1861) is widely regarded as an **eloquent** and moving speech.

31. **Endorse** [inˈdôrs, enˈdôrs] (verb): To endorse means to give public support or approval.

    In context: The popular football star was pleased to be asked to **endorse** a brand of healthful snacks.

    Related word:

    Endorsement (noun): Endorsement means a statement of support or approval. A newspaper can state its endorsement of

a political candidate, or a celebrity can offer an endorsement of a particular product.

32. **Esteem** [əˈstēm] (noun or verb): Esteem (noun) means respect and admiration. To esteem (verb) means to respect highly.

    In context: The physician was held in such high **esteem** (noun) by his colleagues that his conclusions were never questioned. All those who worked under him **esteem [ed]** (verb) him greatly.

    Related words:

    Self-esteem (noun): Self-esteem is confidence in one's own abilities.

    Estimable (adjective): Estimable means worthy of great respect.

33. **Exalt** [igˈzôlt] (verb): To exalt means to hold someone in very high regard or to glorify.

    In context: To impress his readers with the value of a close-knit community, Jaxon used his blog to **exalt** the virtues of small-town living.

    Related word:

    Exaltation (noun): Exaltation means glorification.

34. **Exemplary** [igˈzemplərē] (adjective): Exemplary means serving as an excellent example or representing the best of its kind.

    In context: Eli's **exemplary** essay was published in the school's official website.

35. **Exhilarating** [igˌzilәˈrātiNG] (verb or adjective): Exhilarating means feeling excitement or happiness.

    In context: My first experience bungee jumping was the most **exhilarating** six minutes of my life.

    Related word:

    Exhilaration (noun): Exhilaration is a feeling of happiness or excitement.

36. **Felicity** [fəˈlisətē] (noun): Felicity means intense happiness.

    In context: The musicians in the marching band were overcome with **felicity** as they received the first-place prize in the county competition.

Related word:

Felicitation (noun): Felicitations are words expressing praise or good wishes on a special occasion.

37. **Fervor** ['fərvər] (noun): Fervor means great warmth of feeling or passion.

In context: The townspeople responded to the call to action with **fervor,** and they all rushed to help those affected by the storm.

Related word:

Fervid (adjective): Fervid is an adjective that means enthusiastic or passionate.

BTW

You can relate **fortuitous** *to fortunate to help you remember the meaning.*

38. **Fortuitous** [fôr'to͞oətəs] (adjective): Fortuitous means happening by chance, unanticipated, or lucky.

In context: After a **fortuitous** meeting with Sloane during her summer job as a lifeguard, Sophie was thrilled to see her again in their driver's education class.

39. **Gregarious** [grə'gerēəs] (adjective): Gregarious means fond of company or sociable.

In context: The **gregarious** group of freshmen spent most of their lunch periods together, sharing hilarious tales of summer adventures.

40. **Harmonious** [här'mōnēəs] (adjective): Harmonious means pleasant-sounding or marked by agreement in feeling or action (think of being in **harmony** with others).

In context: After a short period of adjustment, the co-workers were able to establish a **harmonious** and productive work environment.

41. **Indefatigable** [in-di-'fa-ti-gə-bəl] (adjective): Indefatigable means persisting tirelessly or energetic.

In context: After the destructive hurricane, the **indefatigable** team of workers was able to rebuild the house in just two

weeks.

42. **Industrious** [inˈdəstrē əs] (adjective): Industrious means diligent and hard-working.

    In context: The **industrious** freshmen were able to complete their volunteer clean-up of the park in under three hours.

43. **Ineffable** [inˈefəb(ə)l] (adjective): Ineffable means incapable of being expressed in words.

    In context: The shocking ending of the novel left the class in an **ineffable** daze as they sat in their seats in silence.

    Related word:

    Ineffability (noun): Ineffability means unspeakableness.

I have included ineffable in this chapter on words with positive meanings, but this is not the only use of the word. While ineffable is often followed by a positive emotion (ineffable joy or bliss), it can also refer to something so sacred that it cannot be expressed (like the name of a deity, as in *The name of God is ineffable and cannot be expressed in words*) or so awful that it is unspeakable (as in ineffable disgust).

If you think of the qualities that often describe a "genius," you will remember **ingenious.**

44. **Ingenuity** [inja'n(y)o͞oətē] (noun): Ingenuity means cleverness, originality, or inventiveness.

    In context: The members of the student council used their **ingenuity** to come up with the idea to hold a class garage sale to raise money to pay for new playground equipment for the elementary school.

    Related word:

    Ingenious (adjective): Ingenious means clever or inventive.

45. **Intrepid** [in'trepəd] (adjective): Intrepid means brave or fearless. (It is a synonym for dauntless!)

    In context: Though bombarded by wind and freezing rain, the **intrepid** seniors continued their hike up the mountain.

46. **Jocund** ['jäkənd, 'jōkənd] (adjective): Jocund means cheerful and jolly.

    In context: It was important for the actor who portrayed the green giant in the school play to project a **jocund** persona.

    Related word:

    Jocundity (noun): Jocundity means cheerfulness, joyousness.

47. **Judicious** [jo͞o'diSHəs] (adjective): Judicious means marked by common sense in practical matters or showing good judgment.

    In context: The teacher made the **judicious** decision to postpone the chemistry exam after a fierce storm caused a widespread overnight power outage.

To help you remember, think of a judge, a person chosen for his or her good judgment.

48. **Kudos** [k(y)o͞o,däs, 'k(y)o͞o,dōs] (noun): Kudos means praise or honor.

    In context: The football team received **kudos** for their fine display of sportsmanship on the field.

49. **Lucid** [lo͞osəd] (adjective): Lucid means expressed clearly or easy to understand. It can also mean bright or shining.

    In context: The defense attorney's **lucid** argument convinced the jury of the defendant's innocence.

50. **Mirth** [mərTH] (noun): Mirth means amusement or laughter.

    In context: The second graders couldn't control their **mirth** at the school fair when a whipped cream pie was hurled at the assistant principal.

    Related word:

    Mirthful (adjective): Mirthful means merry or gleeful.

51. **Plucky** ['pləkē] (adjective): Plucky means having courage in the

face of difficulties.

In context: The **plucky** gymnast picked herself up and leaped back on to the balance beam after her fall.

52. **Principled** ['prinsəpəld] (adjective): Principled means showing recognition of right and wrong or acting according to morality (think of having **principles**).

In context: The **principled** governor won kudos for his decision to avoid getting caught up in corrupt politics.

53. **Prolific** [prə'lifik] (adjective): Prolific means productive, creative, or fertile.

In context: The **prolific** author published 11 books in a five-year period.

54. **Prudent** [prōōdnt] (adjective): Prudent means acting with care and showing thought for the future.

BTW

Ravishing *can also have a very negative meaning: it is related to the verb to ravish meaning to seize or to take away by violence. The context in which the word is used will help you figure out which meaning fits best.*

In context: The **prudent** young woman saved all her baby-sitting money to pay for her car insurance.

55. **Ravishing** [raviSHiNG] (adjective): Ravishing means delightful or unusually attractive.

In context: The **ravishing** beauty dazzled the crowd outside the theater.

56. **Sacrosanct** [sakrō,saNG(k)t] (adjective): Sacrosanct means regarded as holy, sacred, or too important to be interfered with.

In context: Morgan considered her time with her children to be **sacrosanct** and allowed no interruption or distraction to interfere.

Related words:

Sanctity (noun): Sanctity means holiness, sacredness.

Sanctify (verb): Sanctify means to make holy or sacred.

57. **Sagacious** [səˈgāSHəs] (adjective): Sagacious means wise, clever, or intelligent.

    In context: The guardians were **sagacious** enough not to engage with the enemy forces when the townspeople were present.

    Related words:

    Sage (noun): A sage is a profoundly wise person.

    Sagacity (noun): Sagacity is wisdom.

58. **Salubrious** [səˈlo͞obrēəs] (adjective): Salubrious means healthful or beneficial.

    In context: Fresh air and exercise is **salubrious** for all, children and adults alike.

59. **Sanguine** [ˈsaNGgwən] (adjective): Sanguine means cheerfully optimistic.

    In context: The softball team remained **sanguine** about each game, despite their losing record.

60. **Scintillating** [sin(t)lˌātiNG] (adjective): Scintillating means very witty and amusing as in a scintillating conversation. It can also mean sparkling or shining brightly, as in the scintillating sun.

    In context: I hated to leave the room during the **scintillating** discussion of the play, but the **scintillating** stars in the night sky beckoned me.

61. **Seemly** [ˈsēm lē] (adjective): Seemly means appropriate, in good taste, or decent.

    In context: The kindergartners were rewarded for their **seemly** behavior during the flag raising ceremony.

    Related words:

    Seemliness (noun): Seemliness means the state of being fitting or appropriate.

    Unseemly (adjective): Unseemly means inappropriate or unsuitable.

62. **Stupendous** [st(y)o͞oˈpendəs] (adjective): Stupendous means amazing or wonderful.

    In context: The junior class did a **stupendous** job transforming the gymnasium into an under-the-sea extravaganza.

63. **Tenacious** [təˈnāSHəs] (adjective): Tenacious means holding on firmly or persistent.

    In context: Determined to capture the thief, the investigators were **tenacious** in following every lead.

64. **Unimpeachable** [ənəmˈpēCHəb(ə)l] (adjective): Unimpeachable means entirely trustworthy or not able to be doubted or questioned.

    In context: The integrity of the judge was so **unimpeachable** that his decisions were never challenged.

The verb to *impeach* means to challenge or to call into question. In the United States, impeachment is the process by which the House of Representatives brings charges against the president, the vice president, or any federal officer for alleged misconduct.

65. **Upright** [əpˌrīt] (adjective): Upright means standing straight and vertical or having moral correctness.

    In context: George Washington is often used as an example of an **upright** person because it was rumored that he willingly confessed to damaging his father's cherry tree.

66. **Venerable** [ˈven(ə)rəb(ə)l] (adjective): Venerable means deserving of respect, especially because of age, wisdom, or character.

    In context: "Every tradition grows ever more **venerable** the more remote its origin, the more confused that origin is." — FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE (1885)

    Related words:

    Venerate (verb): To venerate means to regard with great respect.

67. **Virtuoso** [ˌvərCHəˈwōsō] (noun): A virtuoso is one who is highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit.

    In context: Anita was such a violin **virtuoso** that she was asked to play with the philharmonic orchestra.

68. **Virtuous** [vərCHo͞oəs] (adjective): Virtuous means ethical or having high moral standards.

    In context: Mother Teresa was a **virtuous** woman who devoted

her life to taking care of others.

Related word:

Virtue (noun): Virtue means behavior showing high moral standards. (Virtue is often used as a synonym for goodness.)

69. **Vivacious** [vəˈvāSHəs, vīˈvāSHəs] (adjective): Vivacious means lively, spirited, or bubbly. (Use your word analysis skills to note the root *vi* meaning life.)

In context: The **vivacious** young woman was soon joined by a group of followers who were attracted to her enthusiasm and energy.

Related word:

Vivacity (noun): Vivacity means liveliness.

70. **Zealous** [ˈzeləs] (adjective): Zealous means passionate, devoted, or enthusiastic.

In context: The **zealous** fans never missed a Friday night football game.

Related words:

Zeal (noun): Zeal means passion or enthusiasm.

Zealot (noun): A zealot is one who is extremely enthusiastic or even fanatical about a cause or belief.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 2-1

For each question, select the best response from among the choices. (Note: Synonyms are words that are similar or the same in meaning; antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning.)

1. The speech presented such a _____ argument that the audience was easily able to understand the speaker's points.

   A. bountiful
   B. fortuitous
   C. lucid
   D. indefatigable

2. The best antonym for gregarious is _____.

A. shy
B. friendly
C. mean
D. unattractive

3. A person who is vivacious can also be described as _____.

A. virtuous
B. tranquil
C. effervescent
D. seemly

4. If something is considered holy, it would also be described as _____.

A. ravishing
B. ebullient
C. congenial
D. sacrosanct

5. An ambassador would most likely be chosen for which of the following qualities?

A. having fervor
B. displaying felicity
C. being diplomatic
D. avoiding correctitude

6. Which of the following is a synonym for friendly?

A. amiable
B. distinguished
C. ineffable
D. eloquent

7. A synonym for mirth is _____.

A. virtue
B. laughter
C. peacefulness
D. zeal

8. Which of the following words means important or famous?

A. jocund
B. lucid
C. buoyant
D. prominent

9. From the International Space Station, Earth appears _____, like a glowing ball floating in space.

   A. plucky
   B. meritorious
   C. luminous
   D. gregarious

10. A synonym for attentive to details is _____.

   A. scrupulous
   B. exalted
   C. propitious
   D. fervid

EXERCISE 2-2

Use the context clues in the sentences to choose the best word from the word bank to fill in the blank. Each word is used only once.

acclaim	acumen	alacrity	prolific	salubrious
fervor	indefatigable	bliss	sagacious	tenacious

1. We listened carefully to the _____ advisor, who was known for his wise advice.
2. David delivered the packages each day with _____ and was soon recognized for his promptness and great attitude.
3. Although the raging current almost pulled him downstream, Vivek's _____ grip on the tree branch saved his life.
4. Known as a(n) _____ author, Stephen King has written 62 novels and over 200 short stories.
5. As _____ as he had been as a youth, 60-year-old Kal rode his bike five miles, swam 30 laps in his pool, played two hours of tennis, and then went out for dinner and dancing.
6. Jumping into the swimming pool at the town park is sheer _____ on a scorching summer day.
7. The student chorus received tremendous _____ for its winter concert, moving audiences to standing ovations after each performance.
8. A confirmed baseball fanatic, Victor's _____ for his favorite team

is so great that he goes to Florida in the winter to watch his team practice.

9. We surprised ourselves by choosing a freshman to be treasurer of the Young Entrepreneur Club, but his financial _____ was well-documented and fit our need for someone who knew how to handle money insightfully.

10. After months in the smog-filled city, the campers found the fresh air of the country a refreshing and _____ change.

3 Negative Meanings

MUST KNOW

Some words are used to express feelings of negativity or hatred toward someone or something.

When you read a piece of fiction or nonfiction, it is key to comprehend the attitude the writer is trying to convey. Sometimes a character in a short story or a novel expresses dislike for another character, and it is important for you, the reader, to understand this feeling. In science writing, the writer may evaluate a study and find it lacking, or, in some cases, poorly conducted. In reading historical documents, you may find a writer expressing disdain (scorn) or even hatred toward a social institution or political perspective. In your own writing, you may need a word to convey bitterness, hatred, disgust, or anger. Here are 70 words for you to choose from!

The words on the list below express negative attitudes. Study the words and try to use them in your own writing whenever you need to show negativity.

1. **Abhor** [ab'hôr, əb'hôr] (verb): To abhor means to hate or detest.

   In context: Because he wound up tripping himself constantly when he tried to play touch football, Ray began to **abhor** his favorite sport.

   Related word:

   Abhorrent (adjective): Abhorrent means hateful.

2. **Abject** ['abjekt, ab'jekt] (adjective): Abject means wretched or

pitiful.

In context: After losing all her money, Martha fell into **abject** poverty with nothing left of value.

3. **Abysmal** [əˈbizməl] (adjective): Abysmal means extremely bad.

   In context: The team's **abysmal** record of 12 losses and no wins did not discourage them from practicing every day.

   Related word:

   Abyss (noun): An abyss is a deep or bottomless pit.

4. **Acerbic** [əˈsərbik] (adjective): Acerbic means biting, or bitter in tone or taste.

   In context: Alex's **acerbic** tone as he criticized the choice for school play soon alienated the other members of the cast.

Alienate *is word 4 in Chapter 5.*

5. **Acrimony** [ˈakrəˌmōnē] (noun): Acrimony means bitterness or spitefulness.

   In context: **Acrimony** broke up the friendship of Hannah and Tobie after they both tried out for the lead in the school play.

   Related word:

   Acrimonious (adjective): Acrimonious means bitter or spiteful.

6. **Admonish** [ədˈmäniSH] (verb): To admonish means to caution, criticize, or reprove.

   In context: Joe's mother **admonished** him not to ruin his appetite by eating dessert before dinner.

   Related words:

   Admonishment (noun): An admonishment is a warning or a reprimand.

   Admonition (noun): A admonition is a gentle warning or counseling.

7. **Adversarial** [ˌadvərˈserē əl] (adjective): Adversarial means relating to hostile opposition.

In context: Although the two football teams had an **adversarial** relationship during games, off the field, several of the boys on both teams were quite friendly.

Related word:

Adversary (noun): Adversary means opponent.

8. **Aloof** [əˈlo͞of] (adjective): Aloof means unfriendly, standoffish, or cold.

In context: Although considered an artistic genius, Theodore was so **aloof** that most of the other students were reluctant to engage him in conversation.

9. **Anathema** [əˈnaTHəmə] (noun): An anathema is something that is cursed or a detestable person.

In context: Hester Prynne's sin made her an **anathema** to the townspeople, and they shunned her.

10. **Antagonism** [anˈtagəˌnizəm] (noun): Antagonism means hostility or opposition.

In context: The **antagonism** between the Hatfields and the McCoys led to a feud that lasted for generations.

Related words:

Antagonistic (adjective): Antagonistic means hostile or feeling strong hatred.

Antagonist (noun): An antagonist is an opponent. In literature, the antagonist is the character who opposes the main character.

BTW

Use your word analysis skills here: the prefix anti- (against) + the root path (feeling) = feelings against.

Try this process again on the next word **apathetic***: The prefix* **a-** *+ the root* **path** *= ?*

11. **Antipathy** [anˈtēpəTHē] (noun): Antipathy is a strong dislike or hostility.

In context: It was hard not to feel **antipathy** for the bully who preyed on younger students.

12. **Apathetic** [apəˈTHetik] (adjective): Apathetic means uncaring or showing no interest or enthusiasm.

    In context: The cheerleaders tried their best to get the **apathetic** crowd to cheer on their lifeless team.

    Related word:

    Apathy (noun): Apathy means lack of caring.

13. **Arrogant** [ˈerəgənt] (adjective): Arrogant means being conceited or having an exaggerated sense of your own importance.

    In context: The **arrogant** and opinionated reporter refused to allow Mayor Burns to explain his decision.

14. **Avarice** [ˈavər əs] (noun): Avarice means extreme greed for wealth.

    In context: In the novel *Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe,* Silas Marner's **avarice** led him to hoard his gold and hide it under his floor.

    Related word:

    Avaricious (adjective): Avaricious means greedy.

15. **Belligerent** [bəˈlijərənt] (adjective): Belligerent means hostile and aggressive.

    In context: The King refused to respond to the taunting of the **belligerent** warlord.

16. **Callous** [ˈkaləs] (adjective): Callous means unfeeling and insensitive.

    In context: Julia's **callous** disregard for her sister's feelings left the younger child in tears.

17. **Cantankerous** [kanˈtaNGk(ə)rəs] (adjective): Cantankerous means bad-tempered, argumentative, or uncooperative.

    In context: The **cantankerous** old man refused to join his neighbors in welcoming the new family to the building.

18. **Caustic** [ˈkôstik] (adjective): Caustic means corrosive, acid-like, or harsh. It can be used literally to describe a substance or figuratively to describe a person's words or tone. (For definitions of *literally* and *figuratively,* see Chapter 8.)

    In context: Gloria never realized that her **caustic** wit hurt the feelings of her coworkers.

19. **Coerce** [kōˈərs] (verb): To coerce means to persuade using force or threats.

    In context: The kidnappers **coerced** the Prime Minister into the car and sped away.

    Related word:

    Coercion (noun): Coercion is the use of force to persuade.

20. **Contemptible** [kənˈtem(p)təb(ə)l] (adjective): Contemptible means despicable or deserving scorn.

    In context: When it was discovered that Rupert had stolen funds meant for the community center, he was removed from his position on the governor's staff for his **contemptible** behavior.

    Related word:

    Contempt (noun): Contempt means scorn or disrespect. (See Chapter 8 on confused words.)

21. **Debilitate** [dəˈbiləˌtāt] (verb): To debilitate means to weaken or make infirm.

    In context: Fear can **debilitate** as harshly as hunger, cold or illness.

22. **Degradation** [degrəˈdāSH(ə)n] (noun): Degradation means shame or humiliation.

    In context: After being captured and sent to prison for embezzlement, Marcel felt that his **degradation** was complete.

    Related word:

    Degrade (verb): To degrade means to treat someone with scorn or disrespect.

23. **Deleterious** [delәˈtirē әs] (adjective): Deleterious means causing harm or damage.

    In context: Air pollution is known to have a **deleterious** effect on living organisms.

24. **Deprecate** [ˈdeprəˌkāt] (verb): To deprecate means to express disapproval of.

    In context: In support of his students, Mr. Lewis felt it necessary to **deprecate** the administration's attempts to silence the students' protest.

25. **Desolate** [ˈde-sə-lət] (adjective): Desolate means deserted, barren, empty of life.

    In context: The scene from the window was a **desolate** wasteland except for a few scattered trees.

26. **Detrimental** [detrəˈmen(t)l] (adjective): Detrimental means harmful.

    In context: Research has proven that smoking is **detrimental** to your health.

27. **Dire** [ˈdī(ə)r] (adjective): Dire means extremely serious or urgent.

    In context: “Nothing has more strength than **dire** necessity.” — EURIPIDES (410 BC)

28. **Discord** [ˈdiskôrd] (noun): Discord means disagreement or lack of harmony.

    In context: The **discord** between the drummer and the guitarist led to the band’s break-up.

    Related word:

    Discordant (adjective): Discordant means disagreeing or incongruous.

29. **Disdain** [disˈdān] (noun or verb): Disdain (noun) means the feeling that someone or something is not worthy of respect. To disdain (verb) means to scorn, to regard something or someone as unworthy.

    In context: The **disdain** (noun) on Daisy’s face made Gatsby feel unworthy to love her. As a young society woman, she felt she had to **disdain** (verb) his romantic advances.

    Related word:

    Disdainful (adjective): Disdainful means scornful or disrespectful.

30. **Disputatious** [dispyəˈtāSHəs] (adjective): Disputatious means tending to argue or be confrontational.

    In context: The talk show host’s reputation for being **disputatious** made many celebrities reluctant to appear as guests.

Think of a dispute and you'll have a good sense of the meaning of disputatious. Don't let the suffix (*-tious*) throw you off!

31. **Dissolute** [disə,lo͞ot] (adjective): Dissolute means lacking moral restraint or characterized by improper conduct.

    In context: Oscar Wilde, the author of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, wrote a novel about a character so **dissolute** that his publisher cut 500 words of description from the story before publishing it.

32. **Duplicity** [d(y)o͞o'plisətē] (noun): Duplicity means deceitfulness or double-dealing.

    In context: Hamlet famously accuses his mother of **duplicity**, claiming she pretended to love his father but was in on the plot to murder her husband.

You can remember this word by thinking of the meaning of duplicate (which looks like duplicity) or double. You are two-faced or double-dealing when you engage in duplicity.

33. **Egregious** [ə'grējəs] (adjective): Egregious means outstandingly bad or shocking.

BTW

Think of enemies—that will help you remember **enmity!**

    In context: The basketball player committed a foul so **egregious** that he was ejected from the game.

34. **Enmity** ['enmətē] (noun): Enmity means the feeling or state of hostility or opposition.

    In context: The **enmity** between the families led to a lifelong feud.

35. **Exacerbate** [igˈzasərˌbāt] (verb): To exacerbate means to make a problem or a situation worse.

In context: If you continue to walk on a sprained ankle, you will **exacerbate** the injury.

36. **Ghastly** [ˈgas(t)lē] (adjective): Ghastly means causing great horror or fear.

In context: The soldiers often fought in **ghastly** conditions of starvation, frigid temperatures, and rampant disease.

37. **Ignominious** [ignəˈminē əs] (adjective): Ignominious means deserving public shame or disgrace.

In context: The senior tug-of-war team faced an **ignominious** defeat at the hands of the freshman team.

Related word:

BTW

Imprudent *is the antonym of* **prudent** *(word 54 in Chapter 2).*

Ignominy (noun): Ignominy means shame or disgrace.

38. **Imprudent** [imˈprōōdnt] (adjective): Imprudent means rash, incautious, or not considering the consequences of an action.

In context: It is **imprudent** to spend your whole salary on entertainment the first day you get paid.

39. **Incorrigible** [inˈkôrəjəb(ə)l] (adjective): Incorrigible means not able to be corrected, improved, or reformed.

In context: “In every American there is an air of **incorrigible** innocence, which seems to conceal a diabolical cunning.” —A. E. HOUSMAN, ENGLISH POET (1859–1936)

40. **Insolent** [ˈinsələnt] (adjective): Insolent means rudely disrespectful.

In context: Ms. Roth became quite irritated by the **insolent** remarks of the students in the back row.

41. **Insurrection** [ˌinsəˈrekSH(ə)n] (noun): An insurrection is a violent uprising against the government or authority.

In context: The Whiskey Rebellion was an **insurrection** by

whiskey distillers to protest the tax on all distilled spirits: They viewed the tax as an example of "taxation without representation."

42. **Irascible** [i'rasəb(ə)l] (adjective): Irascible means quick to anger.

BTW

Remember your word analysis skills for this word and the next one: Words with the prefix mal- usually mean something bad.

In context: His neighbors usually agreed with whatever Mr. Kimball said, for he was known to be **irascible**.

43. **Malice** ['maləs] (noun): Malice means ill will or a desire to do evil.

In context: Mr. Hyde's snake-like **malice** overcame him as he was driven to murder his unsuspecting victim.

Related words:

Malicious (adjective): Malicious means mean-spirited or spiteful.

Maliciousness (noun): Maliciousness means meanness or spitefulness.

44. **Malignant** [mə'lignənt] (adjective): Malignant means spiteful, hostile, or full of hate.

In context: The Queen's evil plans revealed her **malignant** nature for all to see.

Related word:

Malignity (noun): Malignity means hatefulness, nastiness, or viciousness.

Malignant is word used by medical professionals to describe a tumor that is causing harm or capable of spreading to other parts of the body. A benign tumor (prefix *ben-* meaning good), on the other hand, does not cause harm.

45. **Meager** [ˈmēgər] (adjective): Meager means lacking in quantity, scanty, or insufficient.

    In context: Oliver protested the **meager** portion of food on his plate and whispered, “More, please.”

46. **Odious** [ˈōdē əs] (adjective): Odious means extremely unpleasant or hateful.

    In context: The **odious** odors seeping out of the chemistry lab had all the students and teachers scurrying out the doors to the courtyard.

47. **Ominous** [ˈämənəs] (adjective): Ominous means threatening or indicating that something unpleasant is going to occur.

    In context: The **ominous** dark clouds were signs of the impending storm.

48. **Oppress** [əˈpres] (verb): To oppress means to crush or burden a person or persons by abuse of authority.

    In context: The cruel dictator exerted his power to **oppress** the citizens until they were little more than slaves.

49. **Perfidious** [pərˈfidē əs] (adjective): Perfidious means deceitful and untrustworthy.

    In context: Macbeth proved to be a most **perfidious** host to his king as he planned the murder of his royal guest.

    Related word:

    Perfidy (noun): Perfidy means treachery or deception.

50. **Pernicious** [pərˈniSHəs] (adjective): Pernicious means having a harmful effect or destructive.

    In context: “[W]ar is always **pernicious** even when successful.” —LEO TOLSTOY, RUSSIAN WRITER (1895)

51. **Petulant** [ˈpeCHələnt] (adjective): Petulant means childishly sulky or bad-tempered.

    In context: When she didn’t get the pet rabbit she had requested for her eighth birthday, Meg became **petulant**.

I remember one of my students telling me she remembered

petulant for a vocabulary test by thinking of the *pet*ulant mood of a child not getting the *pet* she wanted.

BTW

Another chance to use your word analysis skills here: The root pug means to fight.

52. **Pugnacious** [pəgˈnāSHəs] (adjective): Pugnacious means eager to argue or fight.

In context: The **pugnacious** bully was the instigator of several schoolyard fights.

A pugilist is a boxer or prize fighter. Pugilism is boxing, a sport that dates back to about 3000 BC in ancient Egypt.

53. **Querulous** [ˈkwer(y)ələs] (adjective): Querulous means habitually complaining or whining in a childish manner.

In context: Too **querulous** to be good company, Mildred was often left to sit alone when others tired of her complaining.

54. **Rancor** [ˈraNGkər] (noun): Rancor means bitterness or resentfulness.

In context: “It’s one of the few regrets of my presidency—that the **rancor** and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better.” —Barack Obama (January 13, 2016)

Related word:

Rancorous (adjective): Rancorous means bitter or spiteful.

55. **Recalcitrant** [rəˈkalsətrənt] (adjective): Recalcitrant means resistant to authority or discipline, or uncooperative.

In context: The **recalcitrant** troublemaker was finally asked to leave the campsite after frequent efforts to correct his behavior failed.

56. **Ruthless** [ro͞oTHləs] (adjective): Ruthless means merciless or

showing no pity or compassion for others.

In context: The **ruthless** dictator executed his enemies without holding a single trial.

57. **Repugnance** [rəˈpəgnəns] (noun): Repugnance means disgust or strong hatred.

In context: Lady Danbury looked with **repugnance** upon the man who was beating his poor horse.

58. **Scathing** [ˈskāTHiNG] (adjective): Scathing means severely harsh or critical.

In context: The **scathing** review of his first novel didn't stop Herbert from embarking on a second writing project.

59. **Scurrilous** [ˈskərələs] (adjective): Scurrilous means spreading scandalous claims about a person to damage their reputation.

In context: The **scurrilous** remarks posted on social media tragically destroyed the reputation of a fine man.

60. **Sinister** [ˈsinistər] (adjective): Sinister means suggesting something evil or harmful will occur.

In context: The **sinister** smile on the wicked witch's face led us to suspect she had poisoned the apple.

61. **Spurious** [ˈsp(y)o͝orēəs] (adjective): Spurious means false or bogus.

In context: Once captured, the thief made a **spurious** claim that he had been given the jewels as a gift.

62. **Subservient** [səbˈsərvēənt] (adjective): Subservient means prepared to obey others without question.

In context: The tyrant expected all his followers to be completely **subservient** to his wishes.

Related word:

Subservience (noun): Subservience is the willingness to obey others without question.

63. **Tirade** [tīˌrād] (noun): A tirade is an angry, abusive speech.

In context: The worker's furious **tirade** against the company finally made his supervisor realize that he had to fire the man.

64. **Travesty** [ˈtravəstē] (noun): A travesty is a mocking or distorted imitation of something.

In context: The trial was a **travesty** of justice as the accused

abuser was given little more than a scolding by the judge.

65. **Truculent** ['trəkyələnt] (adjective): Truculent means aggressively defiant or quick to argue or fight.

    In context: The **truculent** behavior of the invading troops frightened the villagers.

66. **Ungainly** [ˌən'gānlē] (adjective): Ungainly means awkward or clumsy.

    In context: The **ungainly** walk of the baby giraffe as it tottered on stick-like legs amused the onlookers.

67. **Usurp** [yo͞o'sərp] (verb): To usurp means to seize without right or take possession by force.

    In context: The crew followed through on their plan to **usurp** the power of the ship's captain and staged a mutiny.

    Related word:

    Usurper (noun): A usurper is one who seizes power without right or by force.

68. **Venal** ['vēnl] (adjective): Venal means open to corruption or motivated to bribery.

    In context: The **venal** mayor filled his bank accounts by accepting kickbacks from dishonest businessmen.

69. **Vindictive** [vēn'diktiv] (adjective): Vindictive means seeking revenge.

    In context: Abigail's **vindictive** actions cost many characters in *The Crucible* their lives.

70. **Virulence** ['vir(y)ələns] (noun): Virulence is bitter hostility or the severity or harmfulness of a disease or poison.

    In context: I knew my cousin resented me, but I was shocked by the **virulence** of her hurtful words.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 3-1

Select the best word to fill in the blank or to answer the question in the sentences below.

1. Carrying the huge trays of food, the waiter was so _____ that he

tripped over his own feet.

A. aloof
B. ungainly
C. egregious
D. perfidious

2. The conquering warlord was _____ as he mercilessly destroyed the village and all its inhabitants.

A. apathetic
B. meager
C. abject
D. ruthless

3. When she wasn't allowed to stay up past her bedtime, the child became cranky and _____.

A. venal
B. sinister
C. petulant
D. arrogant

4. When at first his employees refused to go along with Mr. Helm's plan to use inferior materials in the manufacturing process, he tried to _____ them to do his dirty work by threatening their pensions.

A. disdain
B. abhor
C. deprecate
D. coerce

5. Which of the following words does NOT mean tending to be combative or fight?

A. disputatious
B. subservient
C. pugnacious
D. truculent

6. When it was his turn to speak, the candidate's _____ in the debate against his opponent was shocking in its anger and ferocity.

A. tirade
B. travesty
C. insurrection
D. avarice

7. Rather than smooth over the disagreements and calm the angry tempers, Ms. O'Brien's advice _____ the tense situation.

   A. oppressed
   B. admonished
   C. exacerbated
   D. debilitated

8. The _____ Iago wanted to get revenge for what he believed were insults to his character and leadership.

   A. imprudent
   B. apathetic
   C. spurious
   D. vindictive

9. We expected a bountiful buffet dinner, so we were quite disappointed in the _____ meal offered to us.

   A. dissolute
   B. perfidious
   C. meager
   D. incorrigible

10. The _____ scheme was uncovered just as the investors disappeared, taking with them all the funds they had guaranteed to the elderly folks who had invested their life savings.

    A. ignominious
    B. recalcitrant
    C. querulous
    D. caustic

EXERCISE 3-2

Match the words in the first column to their synonyms in the second column.

_____	**1.** belligerent	**a.** wretched
_____	**2.** detrimental	**b.** rancor
_____	**3.** imprudent	**c.** uncooperative
_____	**4.** scurrilous	**d.** bogus
_____	**5.** abject	**e.** threatening
_____	**6.** venal	**f.** slanderous
_____	**7.** ominous	**g.** rash
_____	**8.** spurious	**h.** deleterious
_____	**9.** acrimony	**i.** corruptible
_____	**10.** recalcitrant	**j.** pugnacious

4 Literary Works

MUST KNOW

Certain words are often found in novels, short stories, and poetry, although they may occur anywhere in your reading.

Literary works are usually either poetry or prose fiction. What's the difference, you might ask. Poetry and prose look different: Poetry is written in lines and often divided into stanzas. Prose is written in sentences and divided into paragraphs. Short stories, novels, essays, and articles are written in prose. Poems are poetry (even if they don't rhyme and don't have a regular rhythm). The vocabulary words you encounter as you read novels, poems, or short stories are often used to describe a character, a character's actions, or a dramatic situation. Many of the works that we read in schools, especially those written in earlier time periods—most often from the seventeenth or eighteenth century to more modern times—contain challenging language. The older passages are characterized by unfamiliar vocabulary and somewhat confusing syntax (word order). My high school and college students have found many of the words in this chapter and those included in Chapter 5, "Historical Works," to be very helpful when reading literary or historical works.

The words below are commonly found in literary passages, although you may find them anywhere in your reading.

1. **Accost** [əˈkôst, əˈkäst] (verb): To accost means to approach and speak to someone boldly and aggressively.

   In context: Once the actor's film opened to rave reviews,

reporters began to **accost** her everywhere.

BTW

Aesthetics *can also be used as a noun to refer to the sense of beauty, as in this sentence:*

We hired Susan, an interior decorator, because she had a wonderful sense of **aesthetics.**

2. **Aesthetic** ['es-thet-ik] (adjective): Aesthetic means artistic or related to one's sense of beauty.

   In context: My **aesthetic** enjoyment of the student art exhibit was enhanced by the knowledge that my sister's painting was included in the display.

3. **Affectation** [ˌafek'tāSH(ə)n] (noun): Affectation is behavior, speech, or writing that is artificial and designed to impress.

   In context: Ms. Winter's **affectation** of an upper-class accent was carefully crafted to disguise her very middle-class upbringing.

   Related word:

   Affect (verb): To affect can mean to put on a false appearance: *To disguise her voice, Denise decided to affect a British accent.* For other meanings of **affect**, see Chapter 8.

4. **Affluent** ['aflo͞oənt] (adjective): Affluent means wealthy.

   In context: Enrique's family was quite **affluent,** owning several homes, luxurious cars, and an airplane.

   Related word:

   Affluence (noun) means wealth.

5. **Alias** ['ālē əs] (noun): An alias is a false name or identity.

   In context: Noah used an **alias** to protect his identity as the author of the rebellious political pamphlet.

6. **Allude** [ə'lo͞od] (verb): To allude means to suggest or mention indirectly.

BTW

Allusion *is not included in Chapter 10, "Literary Terms," because it is defined here. It is included in Chapter 8, "Commonly Confused Words."*

In context: Ms. Burns did not want to **allude** to Joe's one incident of misbehavior when she spoke to the college admissions office.

Related word:

Allusion (noun): An allusion is an indirect or passing reference. In literature, it is a reference to another literary work or source. For example, Shakespeare makes an **allusion** to Greek mythology in his play T*he Taming of the Shrew* when a character says, "Leave that labor to great Hercules" (Act I Sc. 2).

BTW

You may remember the prefix ambi- meaning both from Chapter 1.

If you are **ambivalent** *about an issue, you see both sides.*

7. **Ambivalent** [amˈbivələnt] (adjective): Ambivalent means having mixed or opposing feelings.

   In context: My feelings about going to college out of town or staying near home are truly **ambivalent**; I can see the advantages of both.

   Related words:

   Ambivalence (noun): Ambivalence means uncertainty or fluctuation in feelings.

   Ambidextrous (adjective): Ambidextrous describes a person who is able to use both the right hand and the left hand equally well.

   Ambiguous (adjective): Ambiguous, meaning vague, is word 7 in Chapter 6, "Social Science Works."

8. **Anecdote** [ˈanəkˌdōt] (noun): An anecdote is a short, humorous story.

   In context: Recounting an **anecdote** from her youth in a small

New Mexico town, Andrea had the undivided attention of her listeners.

Related word:

Anecdotal (adjective): Anecdotal means not necessarily true or reliable because it is based on personal experiences rather than facts or research. It is sometimes used to reject findings or testimony.

9. **Anguish** ['aNGgwiSH] (noun): Anguish means extreme sadness or torment.

   In context: Beatrice went through severe **anguish** when she was first confronted with the truth of her incurable condition.

10. **Animated** ['anəˌmātəd] (adjective): Animated means lively or energetic. In film, animated means brought to life using animation techniques in which drawn figures are made to move.

    In context: Jamal's **animated** expressions as he read the story aloud to the kindergarteners revealed his delight in bringing the characters to life.

You have probably watched animated films in which drawn figures are "brought to life" by manipulation and special filmography effects.

11. **Anomaly** [əˈnäməlē] (noun): An anomaly is something that does not fit into the normal order or pattern.

    In context: A triangular snowflake is an **anomaly**, as most snowflakes are six-sided.

12. **Anxiety** [aNGˈzīətē] (noun): Anxiety means intense uneasiness.

    In context: Because the final cast for the school play would be announced at 3:00 p.m., the drama students' **anxiety** levels increased as the time grew closer.

13. **Apparition** [ˌapəˈriSH(ə)n] (noun): An apparition is a ghostlike image of a person.

    In context: The **apparition** of Hamlet's father appeared on the battlements of the castle and emitted an unearthly moan.

14. **Austere** [ô'stir] (adjective): Austere means extremely plain (as in an austere landscape); stern or forbidding (as in an austere professor); or relating to self-denial (as in the austere life of a monk).

    In context: The **austere** Puritans, who led lives of piety and devotion, frowned on music and dancing.

    Related word:

    Austerity (noun): Austerity the state of being plain, harsh, or stern.

Austerity is used in a political sense to mean a period of enforced economy, such as when a school budget fails. The district is then forced to practice austerity and cut any nonessential programs like sports, clubs, etc.

15. **Berate** [bə'rāt] (verb): To berate means to scold or criticize someone angrily.

    In context: Mr. Hinckle stepped outside his room to **berate** the students who were running noisily through the hallways.

16. **Bombastic** [ˌbäm'bastik] (adjective): Bombastic means using long and difficult words or high-sounding, inflated language that has little meaning.

    In context: As they listened to the **bombastic** speech, the students were reminded of lines they had just read from *Macbeth:* "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" (Act V Sc. 5).

17. **Candor** ['kandər] (noun): Candor means frankness or honesty.

    In context: "In all my public and private acts as your president, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and **candor** with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy in the end." —PRESIDENT GERALD FORD (AUGUST 9, 1974)

    Related word:

    Candid (adjective): Candid means honest or frank.

A candid picture is "honest" in the sense that the subject is not artificially posed; therefore, the camera captures an "honest" shot.

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18. **Celerity** [sə'lerətē] (noun): Celerity means speed, quickness, or promptness.

    In context: Anxious to make a good impression, Tom arrived at his interview with **celerity.**

If you associate celerity with the verb *to accelerate*, you will easily remember that celerity refers to swiftness. Both words come from the Latin word *celeritas*, which means swiftness.

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19. **Clandestine** [klan'destən, 'klandesˌtīn] (adjective): Clandestine means done in secret.

    In context: Spies for the Union carried out **clandestine** infiltrations of the Confederate troops to figure out their battle plans.

20. **Colloquial** [kə'lōkwē əl] (adjective): Colloquial language is language used in ordinary or informal conversations.

    In context: Most people have two sets of language: **colloquial** language that they use with their friends and more formal language that they use in school or in the workplace.

    Related word:

    Colloquialism (noun): A colloquialism is an expression that is used in casual or informal situations. Examples of colloquialisms include "to bomb" when you do poorly on a test or "to ride shotgun" when you sit in the front passenger seat of a car.

21. **Consecrate** ['känsəˌkrāt] (verb): To consecrate means to declare something sacred or to dedicate something to a higher purpose.

    In context: Both Marie Curie and her husband Pierre

consecrated their lives to science.

22. **Conventional** [kənˈven(t)SH(ə)n (ə)l] (adjective): Conventional is the traditional or usual way something is done.

    In context: My favorite television shows are **conventional** detective stories in which the detective tracks down the clues and solves the murder within one hour.

    Related word:

    Convention (noun): A convention is a tradition or an informal agreement between countries (less formal than a treaty). It is also an assembly or meeting of a group for a common purpose.

23. **Covet** [ˈkəvət] (verb): To covet means to want to have something very strongly; to be consumed with a desire for something (often wrongfully or without regard for the right of others).

    In context: In Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, Claudius was known to **covet** his brother's throne, but few expected him to commit murder to gain it.

24. **Cowed** [ˈkoud] (adjective or past tense of the verb *to cow*): Cowed means intimidated, daunted, or bullied.

    In context: Refusing to be **cowed** by his larger and stronger opponent, the martial arts fighter used his keen instincts and lightning speed to win the match.

25. **Demure** [dəˈmyo͝or] (adjective): Demure means reserved, modest, and shy.

    In context: The **demure** young woman stood quietly by while her father bragged about her accomplishments to their guests.

26. **Destitute** [ˈdestəˌt(y)o͞ot] (adjective): Destitute means without the basic necessities of life.

    In context: Like so many who were left **destitute** after the famine, Liam found himself begging his neighbors for a meal.

27. **Didactic** [dīˈdaktik] (adjective): Didactic means intended to teach or preach.

    In context: *Aesop's Fables* are **didactic** stories that end with a moral lesson.

28. **Diffidence** [ˈdifəd(ə)ns] (noun): Diffidence means modesty, shyness, or lack of self-confidence.

    In context: Jessica finally overcame her **diffidence** and spoke

out in favor of her own qualifications for the position.

Related word:

Diffident (adjective): Diffident means shy or lacking self-confidence.

29. **Droll** [drōl] (adjective): Droll means dryly humorous or amusing.

In context: Elizabeth did not find Darcy's comments **droll**, but she smiled so as not to offend.

30. **Enigma** [iˈnigmə] (noun): An enigma is a puzzle, mystery, or something difficult to understand.

In context: The disappearance of Amelia Earhart during her attempted flight around the world is an **enigma** that has inspired films, novels, and television shows.

Related word:

Enigmatic (adjective): Enigmatic means mysterious or puzzling.

31. **Entice** [inˈtīs, enˈtīs] (verb): To entice means to tempt or attract by offering pleasure.

In context: The serpent is a popular symbol of the power of evil to **entice** seemingly innocent characters to wrongdoing.

32. **Ephemeral** [əˈfem(ə)rəl] (adjective): Ephemeral means lasting for a short period of time.

In context: Trends in fashion are usually **ephemeral,** so it is unwise to invest too much money in a passing fad.

33. **Epiphany** [əˈpifənē] (noun): An epiphany is a sudden or striking revelation.

In context: The poet John Donne had an **epiphany** when he realized his calling was to write religious poetry rather than love sonnets.

34. **Evince** [əˈvins] (verb): To evince means to reveal, demonstrate, or show.

In context: The letters sent from Jane to her sisters **evince** her excitement at her first trip to London.

Evince is a great word to use in your essay writing to replace *shows* or *demonstrates*. For example: *In her Harry Potter novels, J.K. Rowling evinces her belief that good will triumph over the power of evil.*

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35. **Exhume** [igˈz(y)o͞om, ekˈs(y)o͞om] (verb): To exhume means to dig up something that has been buried (used especially with a corpse).

    In context: To determine if the body buried in her father's coffin was really his, Margaret agreed to allow the detectives to **exhume** his body.

    Related word:

    Exhumation (noun): Exhumation is the act of digging up—again, usually referring to a corpse.

BTW

The little hook "¸" added under the letter c is a diacritical (or pronunciation) mark known as a cedilla. The letter c with the hook—ç—is called c cédille. The purpose of the cedilla is to change a hard "c," pronounced "k," to a soft "c," pronounced "s."

36. **Façade** [fəˈsäd] (noun): A façade is the face of a building or an outward appearance that is erected by a person to conceal a less pleasant reality.

    In context: Although she was inwardly trembling, Hester Prynne erected a **façade** of calm composure as she was led before the judge to hear her sentence.

37. **Fastidious** [faˈstidē əs] (adjective): Fastidious means very attentive to detail and accuracy.

    In context: It was obvious that Bartleby was a perfectionist about his copy work as he was **fastidious** about every mark on the page.

38. **Fatuous** [ˈfaCHo͞o əs] (adjective): Fatuous means stupid, silly, and pointless.

    In context: Frequently interrupting the meeting with **fatuous** remarks, Joel was quickly asked to refrain from wasting everyone else's time with his foolishness.

39. **Fetish** ['fetiSH] (noun): A fetish is a fixation or obsession with a particular object, item of clothing, body part, etc. (Often, but not always, the fixation is of a sexual nature.) A fetish can also be an object believed to have magical powers as in a talisman, charm, or amulet.

    In context: Desdemona's handkerchief became a **fetish** for her jealous husband Othello, who sees its loss as proof of her infidelity.

40. **Foppish** ['fäpiSH] (adjective): Foppish is used to describe a man who is obsessed with fashion and who dresses in an affected (see **affectation**, word 3) and overly trendy way. (This word is fairly common in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature.)

    In context: "The priest . . . looked at the grey, carefully curled hair, yellow white visage, and slim, somewhat **foppish** figure." —"THE INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN," G.K. CHESTERSON (1911)

    Related word:

    Fop (noun): A fop is a dandy or a man who dresses in an overly fancy and affected way.

41. **Gaudy** ['gôdē] (adjective): Gaudy means overly bright and showy, garish and brassy.

    In context: The gown was far too **gaudy**, decorated with fringes and ribbons, sparkles and bows in all shades of pink and orange.

42. **Grizzled** ['grizəld] (adjective): Grizzled describes hair streaked with grey.

    In context: The old man, **grizzled** and bedraggled, emerged from the trees and confronted us.

43. **Incredulous** [in'krejələs] (adjective): Incredulous means disbelieving or unconvinced.

    In context: We stood frozen and **incredulous** as the alien spaceship landed in the field.

Related word:

Incredulity (noun): Incredulity means disbelief.

44. **Indelible** [inˈdeləb(ə)l] (adjective): Indelible describes marks that are permanent and cannot be erased.

In context: Unfortunately, my little sister scribbled on the dining room table with an **indelible** marker.

45. **Indignation** [ˌindigˈnāSH(ə)n] (noun): Indignation means annoyance or anger at unfairness or injustice.

In context: Receiving notice that her lease was being cancelled for no apparent reason filled Myrna with **indignation.**

Related word:

Indignant (adjective): Indignant means annoyed or angry at unfairness or injustice.

46. **Inexorable** [ˌinˈeksərəb(ə)l] (adjective): Inexorable means unstoppable or relentless.

In context: After waking up twenty years after he had fallen asleep, Rip Van Winkle was forced to accept the **inexorable** passage of time.

47. **Ingenuous** [ˌinˈjenyo͞oəs] (adjective): Ingenuous means innocent, unsophisticated, or unsuspecting.

In context: New to the school and completely **ingenuous,** Cady never suspects that the popular girls known as the Plastics are manipulating her.

It is easy to confuse ingenuous, with ingenious but remember that ingenious (see word 44 in Chapter 2) has the word *genius* in it!

48. **Irksome** [ˈərksəm] (adjective): Irksome means irritating or annoying.

In context: Hugo had the **irksome** habit of loudly cracking his knuckles when someone in the class got up to speak.

Related word:

Irk (verb): To irk means to annoy.

49. **Lament** [ləˈment] (noun or verb): A lament (noun) is a passionate expression of sorrow or grief; to lament (verb) means to express sorrow or to mourn.

In context: Ben Jonson's poem "On My First Son" is a **lament** (noun) written on the occasion of the death of the poet's young child. In the poem, he **laments** (verb) the loss of one so young and so well-loved.

Related words:

Lamentation (noun): Lamentation is the act of lamenting.

Lamentable (adjective): Lamentable means deplorably bad or worthy of grief.

50. **Meekness** [ˈmēknəs] (noun): Meekness means timidness or submissiveness.

In context: Hiding her confidence behind a mask of **meekness**, Lady Carlotta appeared to give in to her supposed employer's request.

Related word:

Meek (adjective): Meek means timid, submissive, mild, or resigned.

51. **Mortify** [ˈmôrtəˌfī] (verb): To mortify means to cause someone to feel ashamed, humiliated, or embarrassed.

In context: Ms. West wasn't trying to **mortify** Jamie by pointing out her errors, but Jamie's blush and tears were evident to all.

52. **Naïveté** [ˌnäˌēvəˈtā, näˈēv(ə)ˌtā] (noun): Naïveté means innocence, lack of sophistication, lack of experience or wisdom.

In context: Sheldon's **naïveté** was obvious when he was left stranded after giving a stranger money to help him find his way around the city.

Related word:

Naïve (adjective): Naïve means innocent, unsophisticated, or lacking worldly experience.

If you've ever wondered what those two dots (ä) above an *a*

indicate, they are called *umlauts*. Common in German, they are used to modify the pronunciation of the letter *a*.

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53. **Nostalgia** [nä'staljə, nə'staljə] (noun): Nostalgia means a sentimental longing for the past.

    In context: As we drove by my old high school, I was overcome with **nostalgia** for a simpler time in my life.

54. **Ornate** [ôr'nāt] (adjective): Ornate means highly decorated, elaborate, or fancy.

    In context: The walls of the ancient palace were decorated with an **ornate** pattern of gold and precious gems.

If you picture a Christmas tree decorated with fancy ornaments, you'll remember the meaning of ornate.

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55. **Parody** ['perədē] (noun): A parody is a mocking imitation, usually a deliberate exaggeration of a writer's style for comic effect.

    In context: The senior class play was a **parody** of *Moby Dick*, complete with a huge cardboard ship and a rubber whale.

56. **Petty** ['pedē] (adjective): Petty means of little importance or trivial.

    In context: In an expression of political cynicism, Aesop, the Greek author of what have come to be known as *Aesop's Fables*, said, "We hang the **petty** thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."

57. **Prim** [prim]: (adjective): Prim means exceeding proper, prudish, formal, and stuffy.

    In context: The very **prim** and snobbish lady looked down her nose at the child begging for pennies.

58. **Prodigal** ['prädəgəl] (adjective): Prodigal means extravagant, spending money wastefully and recklessly.

    In context: The **prodigal** Herman went through his entire fortune in two years.

59. **Provenance** ['prävənəns] (noun): Provenance means the place of

origin or earliest known history of something.

In context: The painting could not be authenticated as a Van Gogh until its **provenance** was verified.

60. **Rash** [raSH] (adjective): Rash means acting quickly and incautiously.

In context: Holden Caulfield made the **rash** decision to run away from school and take the train into the city.

61. **Renounce** [rəˈnouns] (verb): To renounce means to formally reject (a claim, right, position, or possession).

In context: The captured soldiers were forced to **renounce** their loyalty to the old king and declare their allegiance to the new monarch.

Related word:

Renunciation (noun): A formal declaration giving up a former allegiance.

62. **Repose** [rəˈpōz] (noun or verb): Repose (noun) means a state of rest or tranquility. To repose (verb) means to be lying or situated in a particular place.

In context: Sleeping Beauty **reposed** (verb) in a quiet clearing in the forest. Her **repose** (noun) ended when the prince kissed her.

63. **Reverence** [ˈrev(ə)rəns] (noun): Reverence means deep respect or appreciation.

In context: With great **reverence**, we approached the monument to honor those who had sacrificed their lives for our freedoms.

Related words:

Revere (verb): To revere means to esteem highly, to respect with great appreciation.

Reverend, a title of respect given to members of the clergy, comes from the verb *revere*.

64. **Rudimentary** [ˌro͞odəˈment(ə)rē] (adjective): Rudimentary means basic,

elementary, or fundamental.

In context: Although Alexa spoke only **rudimentary** French, she was able to make herself understood in Paris.

Related word:

Rudiments (noun): The rudiments are the first principles or basics of a subject.

65. **Sensory** ['sensərē] (adjective): Sensory means relating to sensation of the physical senses.

In context: The magnificent banquet was a **sensory** feast: the food looked gorgeous, smelled amazing, and tasted delicious.

66. **Solitude** ['sälə,t(y)o͞od] (noun): Solitude is a state of being alone.

In context: In 1876, Jules Verne wrote: "**Solitude**, isolation, are painful things and beyond human endurance."

67. **Stupefy** ['st(y)o͞opə,fī] (verb): To stupefy means to make someone numb, dazed, or unable to think or feel properly.

In context: The devastation left by the tornado was enough to **stupefy** us, even before we saw the shattered remains of our home.

68. **Sullen** ['sələn] (adjective): Sullen means bad-tempered, sulky, or gloomy.

In context: The carter seemed to bear a **sullen** hatred against the poor donkey that helped him earn a living.

69. **Trifling** ['trīf(ə)liNG] (adjective): Trifling means unimportant or trivial.

In context: "My despised employer was disturbed by every word I whispered and every **trifling** movement I made." Adapted from *The Professor* by Charlotte Brontë (1857).

Related words:

Trifle (noun): Trifle means something of little importance.

Trifle (verb): To trifle means to treat someone without seriousness or respect.

70. **Vexation** [vek'sāSH(ə)n] (noun): Vexation means a state of annoyance or frustration.

In context: When the train did not arrive on time, Mrs. Pennywhistle sighed and paced, her **vexation** apparent to all

who waited with her on the platform.

Related words:

Vex (verb): To vex means to annoy or frustrate.

Vexatious (adjective): Vexatious means annoying or frustrating.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 4-1

Select the best word from the word bank below to fill in the blanks. Each word is used once.

inexorable	ornate	rudimentary	irksome	prodigal
entice	incredulous	stupefy	fastidious	solitude
meekness	aesthetic	enigma	exhumed	renounce

1. Clearly thrify rather than _____, the young apprentice carefully saved his few earned dollars.
2. Trapped alone on the island for weeks after his sailboat sank, Jonathan found some berries and coconuts to relieve his hunger but suffered the pain of his _____.
3. After touring the art museum and gazing at all the beauty around her, Miriam felt she had satisfied her _____ sense.
4. During the Inquisition, many victims who did not practice the official religion felt they had to _____ their religion in order to survive.
5. Never one to speak up for herself, Ann tried to overcome her _____ and protest her exclusion from the debate team.
6. As the person who always completed assignment promptly and thoroughly, Jane found it _____ to be in a group with slackers.
7. Although I had only _____ knowledge of the workings of a car engine, I still opened the hood and fiddled with the smoking parts.
8. To defeat the towering enemy, the army began its _____ march across the land.
9. In his Hogwart's class on spells, Harry learned the best way to

_____ an enemy to prevent their performing a counter-spell.

10. Always _____ about her knitting, Jennifer ripped out her entire sweater when she noticed a slipped stich in the first row.

11. When Hamlet encounters several grave diggers, he jumps into the grave and lifts up a skull that the diggers have _____.

12. Preferring simple designs to fancy ones, Harriet rejected the _____ pattern that the decorator suggested for her sofa.

13. Hoping to _____ her grandchildren to come inside for lunch, Etta baked chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

14. Although we could clearly see our victory on the scoreboard, we remained _____ that we had actually defeated the state champions in basketball.

15. Unable to solve the _____ of the missing class funds, we held a car wash to recoup our losses.

EXERCISE 4-2

Antonyms: For each word, select the choice that is most nearly opposite in meaning.

1. Trifling

   A. cheerful
   B. disorganized
   C. important
   D. prompt

2. Prim

   A. improper
   B. ignorant
   C. immaterial
   D. innocent

3. Naïveté

   A. nostalgia
   B. cleverness
   C. optimism
   D. sophistication

4. Repose

   A. position

B. activity
C. peacefulness
D. triumph

5. Gaudy

A. hard-working
B. plain
C. fussy
D. ornate

6. Indelible

A. impermanent
B. confused
C. difficult
D. easy

7. Affluent

A. bothersome
B. complex
C. beautiful
D. poor

8. Anomaly

A. bitterness
B. dread
C. regularity
D. falsehood

9. Clandestine

A. petty
B. unconcealed
C. physical
D. painful

10. Fatuous

A. unstoppable
B. foolish
C. intelligent
D. skinny

Flashcard
App

5 Historical Works

MUST KNOW

Certain words are often found in historical documents and in fiction and nonfiction works from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.

Reading seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century literary works in English classes and historical documents in social studies classes is often a real challenge for high school students. These works are filled with unfamiliar and uncommonly used words that are difficult to comprehend. In addition, some of these texts are actual official historical documents, which means the word choice is often formal, inflated, and ***archaic*** (out of date). You will also find these passages and documents on AP exams and in the critical reading section of the SAT, a testing situation in which you are reading quickly under stressful conditions. I recall one student who breezed through the critical reading section on a practice SAT and then came to a sudden halt as she hit a passage written by Virginia Woolf in 1938. After a near-perfect reading section, she missed eight of the ten questions on this passage! Most of the difficulty arose from the unfamiliar vocabulary and unusual ***syntax*** (arrangement of words in sentences).

Learning the meanings of the words in this chapter, all taken from seventeenth-, eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century literary works, historical documents, and reading passages on past SATs, will be a great help to you in reading these older passages and understanding what you are reading more accurately. In many of the example sentences, to help you understand the word in its historical

sense, the word in context is taken from a primary source.

1. **Abode** [əˈbōd] (noun): An abode is a place of residence or a home.

   In context: In Greek mythology, Orpheus makes his way to Hades, the **abode** of the dead, to try to restore his wife Eurydice to life.

2. **Abrogate** [ˈabrəˌgāt] (verb): To abrogate means to abolish, usually by authority.

   In context: The Constitution protects the people by ensuring that the United States government cannot **abrogate** the rights of its citizens.

3. **Advent** [ˈadˌvent] (noun): Advent means the birth, creation, or arrival of something (usually an event).

   In context: Our lives have changed dramatically with the **advent** of the Internet.

4. **Alienate** [ˈālyəˌnāt] (verb): To alienate means to cause someone to be isolated or estranged.

   In context: The character Meursault in Albert Camus's appropriately named novel *The Stranger* feels **alienated** from his family and his society.

5. **Approbation** [ˌaprəˈbāSHən] (noun): Approbation means approval or praise.

   In context: "Mrs. Bennet could not give her consent or speak her **approbation** in terms warm enough to satisfy her feelings, though she talked to Bingley of nothing else for half an hour; and when Mr. Bennet joined them at supper, his voice and manner plainly showed how really happy he was." —JANE AUSTEN, *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* (1813)

6. **Ardor** [ˈärdər] (noun): Ardor means enthusiasm or passion.

   In context: "I was yet liable to be taken back, and subjected to all the tortures of slavery. This in itself was enough to damp the **ardor** of my enthusiasm." —FREDERICK DOUGLASS, *THE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE* (1845)

   Related word:

   Ardent (adjective): Ardent means enthusiastic or passionate.

7. **Arrogate** [ˈerəˌgāt] (verb): To arrogate means to take or claim

without justification.

In context: The Debate Club attempted to **arrogate** the meeting room and reserve it for their use only.

8. **Asunder** [əˈsəndər] (adverb): Asunder means apart or divided.

In context: This country was torn **asunder** by civil war from 1861 to 1865.

9. **August** [ôˈgəst] (adjective): August means respected or distinguished.

In context: When he entered the throne room filled with members of the royal family, Percy was humbled to find himself in such **august** company.

10. **Bequeath** [bəˈkwēTH, bəˈkwiTH] (verb): To bequeath means to leave one's possessions to another in a will.

In context: "[T]he early settler **bequeath [ed]** to their descendants those customs, manners, and opinions which contribute most to the success of a republican form of government." —ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE, *DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA: PART 1* (1835)

11. **Boorish** [ˈbo͝oriSH] (adjective): Boorish means rough or coarse and bad-mannered.

In context: Boris yelled out obnoxious questions like a **boorish** oaf; he was soon ejected from the seminar.

Related word:

Boor (noun): A boor is an uncouth, impolite person.

Don't confuse a boor with a bore: A bore is a boring person; a boor is a rude and discourteous person. (Unfortunately, one person can be both!)

12. **Brethren** [ˈbreTH(ə)rən] (noun): Brethren is a somewhat archaic term (no longer in everyday use) that means brothers. It is often used in religious speech and writing.

In context: "Progress in human affairs is more often a pull than a push, a surging forward of the exceptional man, and the

lifting of his duller **brethren** slowly and painfully to his vantage ground." —W.E.B. DU BOIS, *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLKS* (1903)

13. **Caprice** [kəˈprēs] (noun): Caprice means a sudden and unexpected change in mood or behavior, like an impulse or a whim.

    In context: The inmates were kept in a state of constant uneasiness, dependent on the **caprice** of their jailors for food, water, and exercise.

    Related word:

    Capricious (adjective): Capricious means fickle, changeable, or unstable.

14. **Chagrin** [SHəˈgrin] (noun): Chagrin means distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated.

    In context: Much to her **chagrin**, Lexi was the only cheerleader not invited back the following year.

15. **Devolve** [dəˈvälv] (verb): To devolve means to delegate power to a lower level; to transfer or pass down the power scale.

    In context: Once the King established a chain of command, the authority to hand out battle honors **devolved** to the general.

16. **Discomfiture** [disˈkəmfəˌCHər] (noun): Discomfiture means a feeling of uneasiness, awkwardness, or embarrassment.

    In context: As the interviewer shifted to more personal questions, Richard's **discomfiture** became apparent in his blushes, shifting eyes, and fidgeting fingers.

17. **Disconsolate** [ˌdisˈkäns(ə)lət] (adjective): Disconsolate means unhappy, dejected, or despondent.

    In context: The loss in the last five seconds of the game left the team **disconsolate**, convinced that their efforts to win the state championship had been a waste of time and effort.

18. **Dispassionately** [disˈpash (ə)nətlē] (adverb): Dispassionately means unemotionally, rationally, and impartially.

    In context: The Chorus in Greek drama is supposed to **dispassionately** observe the tragic events as they unfold on stage, refraining from any emotional commentary.

19. **Dominion** [dəˈminyən] (noun): Dominion means control or sovereignty (see word 61).

In context: “They all attributed the peaceful **dominion** of religion in their country mainly to the separation of church and state.” —ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE, *DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA PART 1* (1835)

20. **Dubious** ['d(y)o͞obēəs] (adjective): Dubious means hesitating or doubting.

    In context: Aneesh looked **dubious** when I told him I could ride the unicycle, but he was forced to admit he was wrong when I proceeded to ride it down the road.

21. **Enfeeble** [in'fēb(ə)l, en'fēb(ə)l] (verb): To enfeeble means to make weak or feeble.

    In context: The bout of pneumonia following his injury so **enfeebled** Jed that he could hardly talk to his visiting family.

Notice that enfeeble, enfranchisement, and enthroned all begin with the prefix *en-* (to cause to be). Many words change their part of speech to become verbs when they begin with *en-: enplane, encircle, enlist, enlighten, entrust, envisage.* You can figure out the meaning of these words by taking note of the root of the word: plane, circle, list, lighten, trust, and visage. Always look for clues to help you figure out a word’s meaning—clues within the unfamiliar word itself and in the surrounding context.

22. **Enfranchisement** [in'fran,CHīzmənt, en'fran,CHīzmənt] (noun): Enfranchisement means the giving of a right or privilege, usually the right to vote. (Franchise means the right to vote or an authorization from the government to carry out a commercial enterprise.)

    In context: In 1869 Elizabeth Cady Stanton stated that **enfranchisement** for women was “the first step toward the recognition of that essential element in government that can only secure the health, strength, and prosperity of the nation.” (The quote is taken from Stanton’s speech at the 1869 Woman’s Suffrage Convention.)

23. **Enthroned** [ən'THrōnd] (past tense verb): Enthroned means installed on a throne.

In context: Queen Elizabeth was **enthroned** during her coronation ceremony on June 2, 1953.

24. **Execrate** ['eksə,krāt] (verb): To execrate means to despise or to detest something, or to declare it to be evil.

In context: Most readers of the Harry Potter books admit that they sincerely **execrate** the Dark Lord Voldemort, or He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

25. **Fanciful** ['fansəfəl] (adjective): Fanciful means overimaginative and unrealistic.

In context: Demi told a **fanciful** story about meeting a fairy in the woods who granted her three wishes.

Related words: Although ***fancy***, the adjective, ***fancy***, the noun, and ***fancy***, the verb, all look exactly the same, you should be able to use the context to figure out the part of speech being used.

Fancy (adjective): Fancy means highly decorated or elaborate.

Fancy (noun): A fancy is feeling of liking or an attraction.

Fancy (verb): To fancy means to feel a desire or liking for.

26. **Fetter** ['fetər] (noun or verb): Fetter (noun), usually in the plural form **fetters**, means chains or handcuffs used to restrain a prisoner. To fetter (verb) means to restrain a person using chains, handcuffs, shackles, or manacles (leg irons).

In context: The prisoner was barely able to stand while the **fetters** on his ankles prevented any movement.

Related words:

Enfetter (verb): To enfetter means to restrain someone in shackles or chains. (See the note in word 21.)

Unfetter (verb): To unfetter means to free someone from restraints (either literal or metaphorical restraints).

Fetter(s) is often used metaphorically (not literally) as in "Hermione remained fettered by her shyness and insecurities."

27. **Grievance** ['grēvəns] (noun): A grievance is a cause of distress or a

wrong that gives cause for complaint.

In context: Each employee spoke passionately about a **grievance** that he or she felt had not been addressed by the management.

28. **Immured** [iˈmyo͝ord] (past tense verb): Immured means enclosed or confined against their will.

In context: In Edgar Allan Poe's well-known but gruesome short story "The Cask of Amontillado," a character is **immured** behind a brick wall in an act of revenge.

29. **Imperishable** [imˈperəSHəb(ə)l] (adjective): Imperishable means enduring forever (never perishing or dying).

In context: Once refrigerator cars were invented, trains were no longer limited to transporting only **imperishable** goods like cotton or grains.

30. **Impunity** [imˈpyo͞onədē] (noun): Impunity means exemption from punishment or freedom from the harmful consequences of an action.

In context: The King thought that he could change laws, banish those who disagreed with him, and order the execution of his adversaries with **impunity**, but he discovered that even kings must face the consequences of their actions.

31. **Inconstancy** [inˈkänztənsē] (noun): Inconstancy means variety, fluctuation, changeability, or unsteadiness.

In context: In *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1791), Edmund Burke argued that the evils of **inconstancy,** or changing loyalties, are far worse than the evils of stubbornness.

32. **Incontestable** [ˌinkənˈtestəb(ə)l] (adjective): Incontestable means not able to be disputed.

In context: When faced with **incontestable** evidence of his guilt, the butler was forced to admit that he had committed the murder.

33. **Indictment** [inˈdītmənt] (noun): An indictment is a formal charge or accusation of a crime. (Notice in the pronunciation guide that the *c* is silent.)

In context: The victims of the scheme to swindle their funds were satisfied when the **indictment** for fraud and embezzlement was issued against the con man.

Related words:

Indict (verb): To indict is to make a formal accusation of a crime.

Indictable (adjective): Indictable describes a crime that a person has committed that is deserving of a formal charge.

BTW

Heracles eventually figures out how to defeat Antaeus by lifting him up in the air and crushing him to death!

34. **Indomitable** [inˈdämədəb(ə)l] (adjective): Indomitable means impossible to subdue or be dominated.

In context: Until Heracles discovers his enemy's secret source of strength, Antaeus is an **indomitable** figure in Greek mythology, unable to be defeated because his strength is renewed whenever he touches the earth.

35. **Interposition** [ˌin(t)ərpəˈziSH(ə)n] (noun): Interposition is the act of interference or intervention.

In context: With the **interposition** of a mediator, the strikers and the employers were finally able to come to terms.

36. **Liken** [ˈlīkən] (verb): To liken is to point out similarities or resemblance.

In context: The members of the tribe showed absolute loyalty to their leader and were unashamed to **liken** him to a god.

37. **Manifest** [ˈmanəˌfest] (adjective or verb): Manifest (adjective) means clear or obvious to the eye or mind. To manifest (verb) means to make evident by showing.

In context: The value of crop rotation became **manifest** (adjective) as the farmers who varied their crops prospered. Those farmers who continued to **manifest** (verb) eagerness to learn new agricultural methods were encouraged by their success.

Related word:

Manifestation (noun): A manifestation is an event, action, or object that becomes clearly perceptible. A manifestation is also

used to refer to an **apparition** (word 13 in Chapter 4) or the materialization of a spirit.

38. **Marital** [ˈmerətl] (adjective): Marital means pertaining to marriage.

See note on **matriarchy** *in word 51.*

In context: The **marital** status of the men seeking employment was used as an indicator of their willingness to commit to a stable relationship.

39. **Matriarchy** [ˈmātrēˌärkē] (noun): A matriarchy is a system of society or government in which women have primary power.

In context: The superhero Wonder Woman emerged from a mythical **matriarchy**, a society of women warriors known as Amazons.

40. **Medley** [ˈmedlē] (noun): A medley is a varied mixture of people or things.

In context: The meal was a delicious **medley** of flavors from all over the African continent.

41. **Miserly** [ˈmīzərlē] (adjective): Miserly means stingy, cheap, or penny-pinching.

In context: In the novel *The Weaver of Raveloe*, the main character, Silas Marner, is known for being **miserly** and hoarding gold until the child Eppie comes into his life and changes his priorities.

Related word:

Miser (noun): A miser is a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible.

42. **Nefarious** [nəˈferē əs] (adjective): Nefarious means wicked or criminal.

In context: Inspector Dupin uncovered the **nefarious** actions of a killer orangutan in Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841).

43. **Nonentity** [näˈnen(t)ətē] (noun): A nonentity is a person or thing

with no distinguishing or interesting qualities.

In context: In nineteenth-century England, a woman was legally a **nonentity** until she married.

Related word:

Entity (noun): An entity is anything with a distinct and independent existence.

44. **Obligated** ['äbləgāted] (past tense verb): Obligated means compelled, legally or morally, or to put someone under an obligation.

In context: A physician is morally and ethically **obligated** to offer help when someone is injured.

45. **Obstinacy** ['äbstənəsē] (noun): Obstinacy means stubbornness or inflexibility.

In context: Because of his reputation for **obstinacy**, no one expected Senator Toms to change his vote on the bill.

Related word:

Obstinate (adjective): Obstinate means stubborn or unyielding.

46. **Onerous** ['ōnərəs, 'änərəs] (adjective): Onerous means oppressively burdensome, crushing, or backbreaking.

In context: French diplomat Talleyrand's argument—that women are too delicate and peaceful to engage in strenuous habits and **onerous** duties and should therefore restrict their concerns to motherhood and the care of the home—inspired Mary Wollstonecraft to write *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* in 1792.

Related word:

Onus (noun): An onus is a burden, responsibility, or obligation.

BTW

Both Oedipus and his father Laius take drastic steps to avoid the outcome prophesized by the oracle—that Oedipus was fated to kill his father and marry his mother—but both of them fail! Therein lies the tragedy.

47. **Oracle** ['ôrək(ə)l] (noun): In ancient beliefs, an oracle is a priest or

priestess acting as a divine messenger and providing a prophecy; oracle can also refer to the prophecy itself.

In context: "An **oracle** / Once came to Laius (I will not say / 'Twas from the Delphic god himself, but from / His ministers) declaring he was doomed / To perish by the hand of his own son, / A child that should be born to him by me." —SOPHOCLES, *OEDIPUS THE KING* (429 BC)

Related word:

Oracular (adjective): Oracular means prophetic or predictive.

48. **Ordain** [ôr'dān] (verb): To ordain means to make someone officially a priest, minister, or rabbi, or to confer holy orders on.

In context: The Pope plans to **ordain** several priests in a special Easter ceremony at the Vatican.

Related word:

Ordination (noun): Ordination is the act of conferring holy orders on a person.

49. **Paradigm** ['perə,dīm] (noun): A paradigm is a typical example of something, or a pattern or model.

In context: Profit sharing, a system in which employees share in the profits of a company, is becoming a **paradigm** for success in the manufacturing world.

50. **Paternal** [pə'tərnl] (adjective): Paternal means fatherly or appropriate to a father.

In context: Coach Lawrence took a **paternal** interest in the players on his team, and he encouraged them to keep up with their schoolwork and to maintain good values, both on and off the field.

BTW

Matriarchy *(word 39),* **paternal** *(word 50), and* **patriarchy** *(word 51) come into English from Latin: mater is Latin for mother, and pater is Latin for father. The Latin word for to rule is archein.*

Mater + archein = matriarchy

Pater + archein = patriarch

51. **Patriarchy** [ˈpātrēˌärkē] (noun): A patriarchy is a society or system of government in which the father (or men in general) has supreme power.

    In context: **Patriarchy** has not always been the rule in society; in fact, many ancient civilizations allowed women equal say in matters of governance.

52. **Pious** [ˈpī əs] (adjective): Pious means devout or religiously devoted.

    In context: Humble and **pious**, Tess attended services in her church each morning and prayed for her unfortunate family each night.

    Related words:

    Piety (adjective): Piety means religious devotion.

53. **Posterity** [päˈsterətē] (noun): Posterity means future generations.

    In context: The names of those who perished in the Holocaust and those who gave them aid are recorded for **posterity** in Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem.

54. **Promulgate** [ˈpräməlˌgāt] (verb): To promulgate means to publicize or to make widely known.

    In context: In order to **promulgate** their new policy regarding required attendance at all lectures, the college used direct email to each student.

    Related word:

    Promulgation (noun): Promulgation is the act of proclaiming or announcing publicly.

55. **Refuge** [ˈrefˌyo͞oj, ˈrefˌyo͞oZH] (noun): A refuge is a place of safety or shelter from pursuit.

    In context: The words on the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York—“Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”—suggest that the US is a place of **refuge** for those seeking shelter.

    Related word:

    Refugee (noun): A refugee is a person who is forced to leave their country to escape persecution, war, or a natural disaster.

56. **Remonstrance** [rəˈmänstrəns] (noun): A remonstrance is a strongly

worded protest.

In context: Ignoring the **remonstrance** of her parents, Susan left her home and joined the students who were protesting the new school dress code.

Related word:

Remonstrate (verb): To remonstrate means to make a forceful protest.

57. **Rendering** [ˈrend(ə)riNG] (noun): A rendering is an act of interpretation of a piece of art, music, a dramatic presentation, a representation of a building or interior, or a translation. (Rendering can also be the present progressive tense of the verb **to render**.)

In context: Leonardo's faithful **rendering** in oils of the Duke's country house earned him a permanent position in the Academy of Artists.

Related word:

Render (verb): To render means to cause to become, provide, give, supply, or make available as in *The mission of the Red Cross is to **render** aid to victims of natural disasters.*

58. **Reprisal** [rəˈprīzəl] (noun): A reprisal is an act of retaliation.

In context: As expected, once the tariffs were raised, the island nation threatened a severe economic **reprisal** against the mainland.

59. **Reproach** [rəˈprōCH] (noun or verb): A reproach (noun) is an expression of disapproval or disappointment. To reproach (verb) is to express disapproval or disappointment.

In context: When Mr. Nelson felt compelled to **reproach** (verb) Sylvia for being unprepared for the lesson, she felt ashamed. She had never before received a **reproach** (noun) in any class.

60. **Riposte** [rəˈpōst] (noun or verb): A riposte (noun) is a quick, clever reply to an insult or criticism, or a counterattack. To riposte (verb) is to make a quick, clever reply to an insult or criticism.

In context: The quick-witted stand-up performer had a sharp **riposte** (noun) for the hecklers in the audience. Unfortunately, one of the hecklers **riposted** (verb) right back!

61. **Sovereignty** [ˈsäv(ə)rən(t)ē] (noun): Sovereignty means supreme power or authority.

In context: "Now, my friends, if we will only act conscientiously and rigidly upon this great principle of popular **sovereignty**, which guaranties to each State and Territory the right to do as it pleases on all things, local and domestic, instead of Congress interfering, we will continue at peace one with another." —STEPHEN DOUGLAS, LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES (AUGUST 21, 1858)

Related word:

Sovereign (noun): A sovereign is a supreme ruler.

62. **Station** ['stā-shən] (noun): Station (other than its common meaning as a stopping place, for example, a train station) means the place or position in which something or someone is normally located. In seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century works, station often refers to the standing or rank of a person in society.

In context: Lord Easton expected the rights and privileges of his **station,** and he demanded unquestioning obedience from all the servants on his estate.

Related words:

Station (verb): To station means to assign to a place or position.

63. **Subjugate** ['səbjə˛gāt] (verb): To subjugate means to bring under domination or control.

In context: The belligerent invaders found it easy to **subjugate** the peaceful villagers, and the conquerors soon controlled the entire area.

BTW

Early drafts of the Declaration of Independence written in Thomas Jefferson's handwriting use **inalienable**, *but the final version uses* **unalienable**.

64. **Unalienable** [ˌən'ālēənəbəl] or inalienable [in'ālēənəb(ə)l] (more modern spelling) (adjective): Unalienable means unable to taken away from or given away.

In context: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator

with certain **unalienable** Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. . . .” Declaration of Independence (1776)

65. **Undaunted** [ˌənˈdôn(t)əd] (adjective): Undaunted means not intimidated or discouraged.

In context: Ella remained **undaunted** by the lengthy assignment, and she immediately began to tackle the reading.

I am sure you noticed that undaunted is related to dauntless (word 23 in Chapter 2) and can deduce that the verb to daunt means to make someone discouraged or intimidated.

66. **Unrequited** [ˌənrəˈkwītəd] (adjective): Unrequited means (a feeling) not returned or rewarded.

In context: The **unrequited** love of Apollo for the beautiful nymph Daphne ended with her being transformed into a laurel tree so that she could forever avoid his romantic advances.

67. **Want** [wänt, wônt] (noun or verb): You are probably wondering why the common verb **want** (to desire or wish for something) is included on this list. The answer lies in the part of speech: **want** used as a noun presents a vocabulary challenge for readers. When **want** is used as a noun, it means the lack or deficiency of something.

In context: A well-known anonymous poem states:

For **want** of a nail the shoe was lost.
For **want** of a shoe the horse was lost.
For **want** of a horse the rider was lost.
For **want** of a rider the battle was lost.
For **want** of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the **want** of a horseshoe nail.

68. **Wont** [wônt, wōnt] (noun or adjective): Wont (noun) means customary behavior; wont (adjective) means accustomed.

Remember **admonition** *(a gentle warning)? See word 6 in Chapter 3.*

In context: "Certain of [Lady Carlotta's] acquaintances were **wont** to give her plentiful admonition as to the undesirability of interfering on behalf of a distressed animal, such interference being 'none of her business.' " —SAKI, "THE SCHARTZ-METTERKLUME METHOD" (1911)

Related word:

Unwonted (adjective): Unwonted means unaccustomed or unusual.

69. **Wrested** [restəd] (past tense verb): Wrested means forcibly pulled from a person's grasp.

In context: "The Huron chief, after casting the weapons he had **wrested** from his companions over the rock, drew his knife, and turned to his captive, with a look in which conflicting passions fiercely contended." —JAMES FENIMORE COOPER, *THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS* (1826)

70. **Yoke** [yōk] (noun or verb): A yoke (noun) means a wooden crosspiece that links two animals together, an oppressive force, or a link such as marriage. To yoke (verb) means to link or couple together.

In context: Teenagers sometimes rebel against the **yoke** (noun) of parental control when it becomes repressive. They resent being **yoked** (verb) to family rules.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 5-1

Select the best word to fill in the blank in the following sentences.

1. The editor was thrilled that his website was chosen to _____ the news that the Nobel Prize had been awarded to Dr. Cooper and Dr. Fowler.

   A. abrogate
   B. alienate
   C. reproach
   D. promulgate

2. The young man faced the _____ job of sifting through thousands

to papers to find his grandfather's will.

A. onerous
B. imperishable
C. boorish
D. fanciful

3. Never one to worry about consequences, Lafitte thought he could steal from his family's trust fund with _____.

A. inconstancy
B. piety
C. posterity
D. impunity

4. After a sharp _____ from the museum guard about using a flash to take pictures, we quickly turned off the flash in our cameras.

A. nonentity
B. rendering
C. remonstrance
D. refuge

5. The _____ dictator imprisoned and tortured thousands of innocent citizens before he was finally defeated by the rebellion.

A. paternal
B. marital
C. august
D. nefarious

6. In a society that is a _____, the mother is the acknowledged final decision maker for the family.

A. patriarchy
B. matriarchy
C. refuge
D. paradigm

7. Feeling _____ after the death of her beloved dog Mimi, Emma refused to go the park where she and Mimi had so often walked.

A. incontestable
B. indomitable
C. disconsolate
D. pious

8. In an act of _____ for the assassination of their leader, enemy

troops attacked an undefended town.

A. reprisal
B. riposte
C. sovereignty
D. obstinacy

9. Living in a humble _____ in the mountains, the hermit subsisted on vegetables grown in his small garden.

A. medley
B. grievance
C. caprice
D. abode

10. Some individuals choose to remain single, viewing marriage as a _____ that restricts their freedoms.

A. enfranchisement
B. fetter
C. indictment
D. interposition

11. Using all his strength, the knight _____ the sword from his opponent's hands and threw it to the ground.

A. abrogated
B. bequeathed
C. wrested
D. devolved

12. In an act of _____, the woman vowed to devote her life to God.

A. chagrin
B. posterity
C. approbation
D. piety

13. With the _____ of the printing press in the fifteenth century, the cost of printing books was drastically reduced.

A. advent
B. abode
C. oracle
D. nonentity

14. Suffering from a _____ of good sense, Tobias refused to buckle his seat belt on the roller coaster.

A. riposte
B. medley
C. want
D. dominion

15. The determined students remained _____ by the scattered piles of garbage and began to clean up the abandoned lot.

A. unrequited
B. undaunted
C. inalienable
D. paternal

EXERCISE 5-2

Select the best word from the word bank below to complete the sentences. Each word is used once.

unaccustomed	paternal	reprisal	brethren	passion
indomitable	dubious	miserly	united	paradigm

1. A synonym word for **brothers** is _____.
2. A synonym for **ardor** is _____.
3. A synonym for **retaliation** is _____.
4. A synonym for **pattern** is _____.
5. A synonym for **fatherly** is _____.
6. An antonym for **wont** is _____.
7. An antonym for **easily defeated** is _____.
8. An antonym for **certain** is _____.
9. An antonym for **asunder** _____.
10. An antonym for **generous** is _____.

Flashcard
App

6 Social Science Works

MUST KNOW

You will frequently encounter this chapter's words in your general reading in the social sciences.

Much of the nonfiction reading you do in high school deals with one of the social sciences. Reading about economics, politics, psychology, sociology, geography, history, law, and anthropology all require you to have a broad understanding of academic vocabulary. The words in this chapter, of course, can be found anywhere in your reading, so your knowledge of the words in this chapter will help your comprehension across all disciplines. Also, many of the words in this chapter have appeared in reading passages on the SAT and ACT tests and on AP exams, and they certainly will be found in newspapers, online articles, and college texts, so spending the time now will absolutely pay off in real life.

1. **Aberration** [ˌabəˈrāSH(ə)n] (noun): An aberration is an abnormality, irregularity, or deviation.

   In context: Priya's friends called the authorities when her **aberration** from her usual routine alerted them that something was not right.

   Related word:

   Aberrant (adjective): Aberrant means deviating from an accepted standard.

2. **Accede** [əkˈsēd] (verb): To accede means to agree to a demand or

request.

In context: Surprisingly, the coach was willing to **accede** to the players' request to miss practice to go to a party.

3. **Alleviate** [əˈlēvēˌāt] (verb): To alleviate means to relieve or make more bearable.

   In context: This updated information will **alleviate** the fears of the travelers, but only for a while.

4. **Allocate** [ˈaləˌkāt] (verb): To allocate means to distribute or set aside.

   In context: The president stated that he will **allocate** 25 percent of the nation's budget to improve the school system. (Yay!)

5. **Altercation** [ˌôltərˈkāSH(ə)n] (noun): An altercation is a dispute or fight.

   In context: The **altercation** between the two brothers was surprising, for they were known to be close friends.

6. **Altruism** [ˈaltro͞oˌizəm] (noun): Altruism means selflessness, generosity to others, charitableness.

   In context: Although Ms. Hunt was a successful lawyer, her **altruism** led her to take on many cases without charging a fee.

7. **Ambiguous** [amˈbigyo͞oəs] (adjective): Ambiguous means vague, uncertain, or variably interpretable.

   In context: The results of the pathology tests were **ambiguous,** and no conclusion about the cause of death could be drawn.

8. **Analogous** [əˈnaləgəs] (adjective): Analogous means similar to, or so that an analogy can be drawn.

   In context: In his play *Hamlet*, Shakespeare refers to sleep as **analogous** to death in the lines, "To die, to sleep— / To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub, / For in this sleep of death what dreams may come. . . ." —SHAKESPEARE, *HAMLET* (Act III Sc. 1).

9. **Annihilate** [əˈnīəˌlāt] (verb): To annihilate means to destroy completely.

   In context: The huge bomb was intended to **annihilate** every trace of the enemy forces.

10. **Antecedent** [ˌan(t)əˈsēdnt] (noun): An antecedent is something that

came before.

In context: The great culture of Ancient Greece was the **antecedent** of many Western traditions, including democracy.

11. **Antediluvian** [ˌan(t)ēdəˈlo͞ovēən] (adjective): Antediluvian means belonging to the time before the biblical flood. (So, really, really, old!)

In context: My grandmother's views on dating are so old-fashioned that they are practically **antediluvian.**

12. **Antiquated** ['an-tə-ˌkwā-təd] (adjective): Antiquated means old or out of date. (Similar to antediluvian, but not quite so old!)

In context: Once the company replaced its **antiquated** accounting system, the workers were paid accurately and on time.

Related word:

Antiquity (noun): Antiquity means the ancient past.

Antiques are collectible objects, usually of high value because of their age and quality. Most objects must be 100 years old to be considered antiques.

13. **Antithesis** [anˈtiTHə səs] (noun): An antithesis is an absolute opposite.

In context: My kind and loving stepmother is the **antithesis** of the wicked stepmother in fairy tales.

14. **Apex**[ˈāpeks] (noun): An apex is the highest point, like peak, pinnacle, zenith, and summit.

In context: At the **apex** of her career, Elena was regarded as the best pitcher in the league.

15. **Assertion** [əˈsərSH(ə)n] (noun): An assertion is a strong statement or declaration of fact or belief.

In context: Macbeth's **assertion** that he welcomes King Duncan to his castle with love is a false claim.

Related word:

Assert (verb): To assert means to make a forceful statement of fact or belief.

16. **Authentic** [ôˈTHen(t)ik] (adjective): Authentic means real or genuine.

    In context: Once the painting was declared to be an **authentic** Picasso, its worth increased to several million dollars.

    Related words:

    Authenticate (verb): To authenticate means to declare something genuine.

    Authenticity (noun): Authenticity is the quality of being genuine.

17. **Bias** [ˈbīəs] (noun): Bias means prejudice, lack of objectivity or neutrality.

    In context: A judge should not let personal **bias** influence his or her decisions.

18. **Brawl** [brôl] (noun or verb): A brawl (noun) is a noisy fight or quarrel. To brawl (verb) means to engage in a noisy fight.

BTW

Note the root brev meaning brief!

In context: Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* opens with a scene of a street **brawl** (noun) between the feuding Montagues and the Capulets. The men **brawl** (verb) until the Prince arrives and orders them to stop.

19. **Brevity** [ˈbrevədē] (noun): Brevity means briefness or terseness.

BTW

Cogent *is a great word to use in your argument essays to describe an especially convincing point.*

In context: The auditorium was so hot and stuffy that we were thrilled by the **brevity** of the speeches.

20. **Cogent** ['kōjənt] (adjective): Cogent means clear, logical, and convincing.

    In context: The defense lawyer presented such a **cogent** closing statement that the jury took less than an hour to reach a favorable verdict for the defendant.

21. **Cognitive** ['kägnətiv] (adjective): Cognitive means relating to intellectual activity such as thinking, reasoning, or remembering.

    In context: Learning a new language is like exercise for the brain and offers many **cognitive** benefits.

    Related word:

    Cognition (noun): Cognition means the act of thinking or reasoning.

22. **Confluence** ['kän,flo͞oəns] (noun): A confluence is a convergence, a joining together, or meeting place of two rivers.

    In context: The band was successful because the **confluence** of their musical sounds was both original and exhilarating. (Remember **exhilarating** from Chapter 2, word 35?)

23. **Connoisseur** [ˌkänəˈsər, ˌkänəˈsō͝or] (noun): A connoisseur is an expert or authority in matters of taste.

    In context: The gentleman was considered such a **connoisseur** of art that his opinion was eagerly sought by art collectors.

24. **Dismal** ['dizməl] (adjective): Dismal means dreary or depressing.

    In context: The weather was so **dismal** that no one felt like leaving the house.

25. **Dogmatic** [dôg'matik] (adjective): Dogmatic means sure that your opinion is absolutely correct.

    In context: Professor Hutchins, **dogmatic** as usual, refused to consider any alternatives to his theory.

    Related words:

    Dogmatism (noun): Dogmatism means insisting that your opinion is the truth without regard for evidence of the opinion of others.

    Dogma (noun): Dogma is a belief unquestioningly held as truth.

Dogma can refer to a religious belief, a political opinion or doctrine, a teaching, or a scientific belief. Both dogma and dogmatic are usually applied disapprovingly.

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26. **Dub** [dəb] (verb): To dub means to give an official name or nickname to someone or something. It can also mean to confer knighthood on someone (as in "He was dubbed Sir Gawain.")

    In context: My friend wanted to **dub** her dog "Twiggy" because he was long and skinny.

27. **Equanimity** [ˌekwəˈnimətē] (noun): Equanimity means calmness, composure, or evenness of temper.

    In context: Rose was valued as a mediator, for her **equanimity** in tense situations was legendary.

28. **Evanescent** [ˌevəˈnes(ə)nt] (adjective): Evanescent means short-lived or quickly fading or disappearing.

    In context: Summer always seems to be the most **evanescent** season, passing by so quickly like a rapidly evaporating memory.

29. **Fallacious** [fəˈlāSHəs] (adjective): Fallacious means based on a mistaken belief, untrue, faulty, or inaccurate.

    In context: After several **fallacious** reports of sighting of flying saucers, the air force sent up a drone to search the area.

    Related word:

    Fallacy (noun): A fallacy is a misconception or the use of invalid evidence or faulty reasoning in an argument.

30. **Frivolity** [frəˈväləd̄ē] (noun): Frivolity means lightheartedness or lack of seriousness.

    In context: When two little girls in the rear of the church began giggling, Dorothy found herself annoyed by sounds of **frivolity** at her mother's funeral.

    Related word:

    Frivolous (adjective): Frivolous means lighthearted or not having a serious purpose or value.

31. **Futile** ['fyo͞otl, 'fyo͞otīl] (adjective): Futile means pointless or not producing any useful result.

    In context: The search for the missing cat proved **futile**, and the children were forced to accept the loss of their pet.

    Related word:

    Futility (noun): Futility means pointlessness, fruitlessness, or ineffectuality.

32. **Heresy** ['herəsē] (noun): Heresy is an opinion or belief that contradicts traditional religious beliefs or customs. It can also mean a dissent from established theory or practice.

    In context: The astronomer Galileo was accused of **heresy** for asserting that the earth moves around the sun, which was contrary to church doctrine that the earth was the center of the universe.

    Related words:

    Heretic (noun): A heretic is dissenter who speaks against church doctrine.

In some cultures and religions, engaging in heresy is a crime that may result in punishment ranging from exile to excommunication to death. Galileo was tried by the Inquisition and found guilty of heresy. He was sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life.

33. **Imperial** [im'pirēəl] (adjective): Imperial means royal, regal, or relating to an empire.

    In context: When Young refused to swear allegiance to the corrupt **imperial** government, he was exiled to a remote island off the coast.

34. **Inimical** [i'nimək(ə)l] (adjective): Inimical means tending to harm or obstruct.

    In context: The presence of carbon dioxide, which made the environment **inimical** to plant life, accounted for the barren landscape.

35. **Lethargic** [lə'THärjik] (adjective): Lethargic means lacking energy, sluggish, lifeless, or lazy.

In context: Bears do not truly hibernate, but they become **lethargic** in the winter as their body temperature lowers and their heart rate decreases in response to a diminished food supply.

Related word:

Lethargy (noun): Lethargy means lack of energy, laziness, or sluggishness.

36. **Median** ['mēdē ən] (noun or adjective): A median (noun) is the halfway point: the quantity at the midpoint of quantities. Median can also be used as an adjective as in "The median income in the town is $50,000.00."

    In context: The **median** of the test scores was 80: fifty percent of students scored above an 80 and fifty percent scored below an 80.

37. **Mettle** ['metl] (noun): Mettle means courage, moral strength, determination, and spirit.

    In context: The players on the soccer team showed their **mettle** by overcoming a three-goal deficit in the last half.

38. **Misnomer** [mis'nōmər] (noun): A misnomer is a wrong or inaccurate name.

    In context: The term firefly is a **misnomer**, because a firefly is actually a beetle rather than a fly.

39. **Mystify** ['mistəˌfī] (verb): To mystify means to confuse, bewilder, or perplex.

    In context: The illusion was intended to **mystify** the audience, and from the gasps in the room when the birds flew out of the hat, it succeeded.

BTW

The opposite of objective *(impartial) is subjective, which means influenced by personal feelings or opinions.*

40. **Objective** [əb'jektiv] (adjective or noun): Objective (adjective) means neutral, unbiased (see word 17), or impartial. An objective (noun) is a target or a goal.

In context: Dr. Fowler tried to remain **objective** (adjective) as she performed the experiment, but she found it difficult to contain her excitement as the results appeared to confirm her theory of asymmetry. Her **objective** (noun) to win the Nobel prize was within sight.

Related word:

Objectivity (noun): Objectivity means impartiality or neutrality.

41. **Obliterate** [əˈblidəˌrāt] (verb): To obliterate means to destroy completely, to wipe out. Obliterate is a synonym for **annihilate** (word 9).

    In context: Some farmers rely on pesticides to **obliterate** pests that feast on crops.

42. **Obsolete** [ˌäbsəˈlēt] (adjective): Obsolete means no longer produced or used; out of date.

    In context: The typewriter, once praised as a huge technological advance, is now totally **obsolete**.

43. **Pacifist** [ˈpasəfəst] (noun): A pacifist is a peace-loving person, one who believes that war and violence are unjustifiable.

    In context: The **pacifist** joined the march to protest the ongoing war.

44. **Panacea** [ˌpanəˈsēə] (noun): A panacea is a cure-all; a solution or remedy for all difficulties.

    In context: While the president's speech was optimistic and hopeful, it did not offer a **panacea** for the country's woes.

45. **Panoply** [ˈpanəplē] (noun): A panoply is an impressive array or a collection of things; it can also refer to a full suit of armor or a ceremonial robe.

    In context: The artist used a **panoply** of colors ranging from palest mauve to flaming orange to capture the sun as it rose above the sea.

46. **Paradox** [ˈperəˌdäks] (noun): A paradox is a seemingly contradictory statement that, when investigated, may prove to be true.

    In context: The prisoner's statement was a **paradox**: He felt most free when he was imprisoned.

Related word:

Paradoxical (adjective): Paradoxical means seemingly absurd or contradictory.

47. **Perpetual** [pərˈpeCH(o͞o)əl] (adjective): Perpetual means never ending or everlasting.

    In context: No light filters down to the deepest part of the ocean floor where microorganisms live in **perpetual** darkness.

48. **Phenomenon** [fəˈnämәˌnän, fəˈnämәˌnən] (noun): A phenomenon is any observable fact or occurrence or an impressive or extraordinary fact or occurrence.

    In context: Remote learning for high school students is a fairly new **phenomenon,** one which evolved in response to the corona virus pandemic.

Because the word *phenom* means a person who is outstanding, talented, or admired, we often think a phenomenon always refers to something amazing; however, it can be as ordinary as seeing the stars in the sky or your shadow on the ground.

49. **Placebo** [pləˈsēbō] (noun): A placebo is a harmless or ineffectual pill. It is often used in experiments to compare a control group that receives the placebo to the group that receives the real medication.

    In context: In the sleep study, students taking the real medication slept two hours longer than those in the control group, who received the **placebo.**

The placebo effect is a phenomenon (two vocabulary words in one sentence!) that occurs when subjects in a drug experiment who take a placebo experience beneficial effects (effects that you would expect only those taking the real drug to experience).

50. **Predilection** [ˌpredlˈekSH(ə)n, ˌprēdlˈekSH(ə)n] (noun): A predilection is a preference or a special liking for something.

In context: He had a **predilection** for classical music that led him to sit in on rehearsals of the local orchestra.

51. **Queasy** [ˈkwēzē] (adjective): Queasy means nauseated, feeling sick to your stomach.

In context: Feeling **queasy** at the sight of blood, she crossed medical school off her list of prospective careers.

BTW

A novella is a short novel, usually under 200 pages.

52. **Quirk** [kwərk] (noun): A quirk is a peculiar behavioral habit or a slight glitch.

In context: By a **quirk** of fate, Gregor Samsa, the main character in Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis*, wakes up one morning to find he has transformed into a huge insect.

53. **Refute** [rəˈfyo͞ot] (verb): To refute means to prove wrong or false.

In context: Louis Pasteur is credited with being the first to conclusively **refute** the theory of spontaneous generation with his experiments in 1859.

54. **Repudiate** [rəˈpyo͞odēˌāt] (verb): To repudiate means to refuse to accept or be associated with.

In context: Susan B. Anthony **repudiated** the belief that women should be excluded from the privileges of citizenship, including the right to vote.

55. **Retrospective** [ˌretrəˈspektiv] (adjective or noun): Retrospective (adjective) means looking back or dealing with past event. A retrospective (noun) is an exhibition that highlights the development of an artist over time.

In context: Pearl refused to engage in a **retrospective** (adjective) examination of the unhappy years before she left home to be an artist. Instead, she looked forward to the **retrospective** (noun) of the past 10 years of her work in the local museum.

56. **Salient** [ˈsālyənt] (adjective): Salient means most noticeable or important.

In context: Rather than discussing the previous night's reading in detail, the professor reviewed the **salient** points and then moved on to a new topic.

57. **Savvy** ['savē] (adjective): Savvy means being sharp-witted and having practical knowledge.

BTW

The verb to **efface** *means to erase, so those who are self-effacing would be inclined to "erase" or remove themselves—either mentally or physically—from a situation.*

In context: Even as a high school student, Bill was **savvy** about the stock market; he turned his modest earnings from washing cars into enough money to pay for college.

58. **Self-effacing** ['self ə'fāsiNG] (adjective): Self-effacing means fearful, lacking self-confidence, or modest and retiring.

In context: Although she appeared **self-effacing** when she was forced to speak in public, Rebecca was actually a strong-willed and brilliant physicist.

59. **Shortcoming** ['SHôrt͵kəmiNG] (noun): A shortcoming is a fault or a failure to meet a certain standard.

In context: Regardless of its bureaucratic **shortcoming**, Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal helped America maneuver through the dark years and emerge a stronger nation.

60. **Sparse** [spärs] (adjective): Sparse means thinly dispersed or scattered (few and far between).

In context: The **sparse** trees in the area offered little protection from the blazing sun.

61. **Squalid** ['skwäləd] (adjective): Squalid describes a place or situation that is dirty, unpleasant, or characterized by poverty or neglect.

In context: Dorothea Dix (1802–1887) fought strenuously for reform after seeing the **squalid** conditions in prisons, poorhouses, and mental asylums.

Related word:

Squalor (noun): Squalor means the state of being dirty and unpleasant, usually as a result of poverty and neglect.

62. **Squander** ['skwändər] (verb): To squander means to waste (usually money or time) in a foolish or reckless manner.

    In context: In 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt said, “Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to **squander**.”

63. **Subtle** ['sətl] (adjective): Subtle means understated, precise, delicate, indistinct, or not obvious.

    In context: My best friend began to drop **subtle** hints about what she wanted me to plan for her “surprise” birthday party.

    Related word:

    Subtlety (noun): Subtlety means understatedness or delicacy.

64. **Sumptuous** ['səm(p)(t)SH(o͞o)əs] (adjective): Sumptuous means lavish, expensive-looking, luxurious, or splendid.

    In context: The coronation ceremony was attended by distinguished guests in **sumptuous** gowns and sparkling jewels.

65. **Suppress** [sə'pres] (verb): To suppress means to forcibly put an end to, to repress or crush.

    In context: In the outtakes from his comedy show, Eddie was obviously, but unsuccessfully, trying to **suppress** his laughter.

    Related word:

    Suppression (noun): Suppression is the act of crushing, conquering, or subduing.

66. **Validate** ['valə͵dāt](verb): To validate means to check or prove the accuracy of something.

    In context: The biologist’s attempts to **validate** the results of her previous experiment were unsuccessful when she couldn’t replicate the results.

    Related words:

    Validation (noun): Validation is the act of checking or proving the accuracy of something.

    Validity (noun): Validity is the quality of being logically or factually accurate.

67. **Vigilant** ['vijələnt] (adjective): Vigilant means watchful and alert to possible danger.

In context: When traveling through the disputed territory, the scouts had to remain **vigilant** to any sign of the enemy forces.

Related words:

Vigil (noun): A vigil is period of watching or being awake at a time when you are usually sleeping. It is also used for an event or period time when a group gathers to wait or pray.

The word *vigilante* comes from the word vigil. Vigilantes are individuals who appoint themselves to enforce the law but who lack the legal authority to do so. In a sense, they are "watchers," although they have been known to take action as well.

68. **Vindication** [ˌvində'kāSH(ə)n] (noun): Vindication is the act of freeing someone from blame or suspicion.

In context: When the real thief was finally caught, the falsely accused Malcolm felt his **vindication** was complete.

69. **Virile** ['virəl] (adjective): Virile means masculine, having strength, energy, and manliness.

In context: Contemporary Sudanese wrestling, a uniting force in a highly diverse region, is practiced by **virile** young men from all ethnic groups.

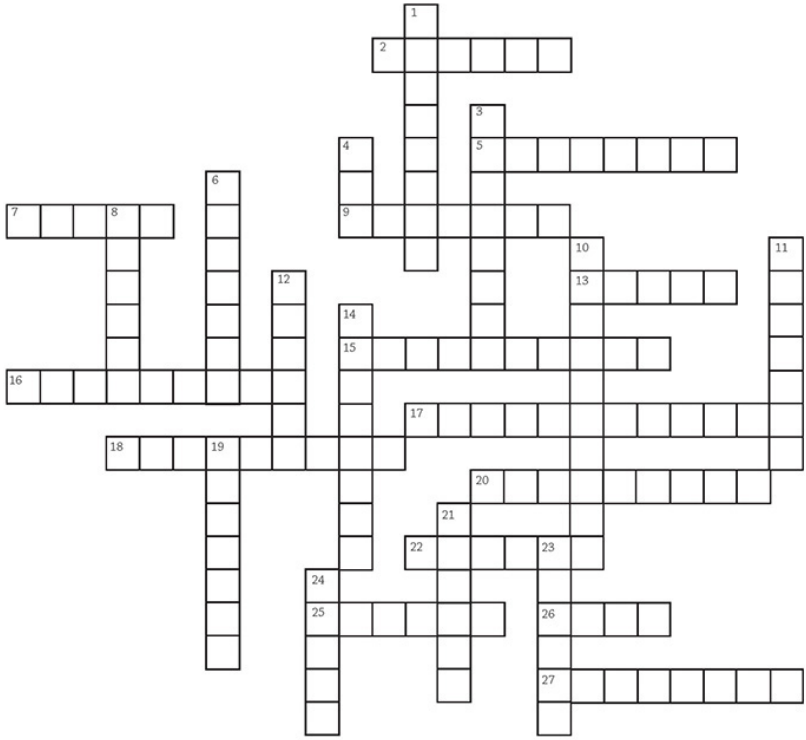
70. **Vociferous** [vō'sifərəs] (adjective): Vociferous means loud and forceful, usually describing someone's speech.

In context: The senator presented a **vociferous** argument supporting the environmentalist's position on expanding protected wetlands.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 6-1

Crossword puzzle: Use the clues below to identify words from this chapter that will complete the crossword puzzle.



Down:

1. wrong name
3. watchful
4. to name
6. a cure-all
8. masculine
10. calmness
11. most important
12. logical and convincing
14. stubbornly opinionated
19. an apparent contradiction
21. understated
23. thinly dispersed
24. fight

Across:

2. dreary
5. harmful
7. sharp-witted
9. briefness
13. odd habit or peculiarity
15. to destroy
16. to relieve
17. very old
18. never-ending
20. vague and unclear
22. nauseated
25. to disprove
26. highest point
27. to crush

7 Science Works

MUST KNOW

Some words are frequently (but not exclusively) found in science readings.

The science texts you are assigned to read often contain technical terms like *microbe* (a microscopic organism) or *teixobactin* (an antibiotic found in soil). Often, these words will be defined or explained in the text, or their meaning will be clear from the context. The words included in this chapter are not technical science terms but are considered part of your academic vocabulary—words that you will find when reading your science or other textbooks, looking through journals or articles, or doing research. These words are not limited to science articles, of course; they may be found in social science passages, historical documents, or even in prose narratives.

It will be helpful for you to familiarize yourself with the meanings of the words and practice them in the exercises that follow.

1. **Abstruse** [abˈstro͞os, əbˈstro͞os] (adjective): Abstruse means obscure or difficult to understand.

   In context: Some of the math problems in the textbook were so **abstruse**, the teacher herself had difficulty solving them.

2. **Accretion** [əˈkrēSH(ə)n] (noun): An accretion is a slow growth in size or amount.

   In context: Giant stalactites are formed in the roofs of caves and caverns by the **accretion** of dripping mineral-laden water.

3. **Adept** [əˈdept] (adjective): Adept means extremely skilled.

   In context: Carlos was **adept** at shooting foul shots; he rarely missed the basket.

4. **Adroit** [əˈdroit] (adjective): Adroit means skillful or dexterous.

   In context: **Adroit** at magic tricks, Howard could dazzle the audience with his illusions.

5. **Aggregate** [ˈag ri gət] (noun or adjective); aggregate [ˈagrəˌgāt] (verb): An aggregate (noun) is a whole formed by several different elements. To aggregate (verb) means to gather into a mass or cluster. Aggregate (adjective) means formed by the combination of many separate units.

   In context: Although the protein **aggregate** (noun) associated with a wide variety of diseases is reproducible in the laboratory, scientists do not fully understand the mechanism that causes the proteins to **aggregate** (verb). It is hoped that new techniques available that permit **aggregate** (adjective) cultures will reveal some answers.

   Related word:

   Aggregation (noun): An aggregation is the formation of a number of things into a cluster.

6. **Agile** [ˈajəl] (adjective): Agile means quick and nimble or able to move easily.

   In context: The **agile** first-grader speedily climbed to the top of the jungle gym.

   Related words

   Agility (noun): Agility means skillfulness.

7. **Amorphous** [əˈmôrfəs] (adjective): Amorphous means without a fixed or definitive shape or type.

   In context: The **amorphous** nature of gases allows them to take the shape of the vessel in which they are placed.

8. **Arduous** [ˈärjo͞oəs] (adjective): Arduous means difficult or tiring.

   In context: Completing the obstacle course in physical education class was so **arduous** that few students completed it in the time allotted.

9. **Catalyst** [ˈkat(ə)ləst] (noun): A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without undergoing any

permanent chemical change. In a nonscientific context, a catalyst is any agent that provokes or speeds up a change or action.

In context: Disposable hand warmers contain iron powder and salt, which act as **catalysts** to produce heat when the pouch reacts with oxygen in the air.

10. **Contend** [kən'tend] (verb): To contend is to strive or struggle to overcome a difficulty.

In context: The anthropologists on the expedition had to **contend** with torrential rain, oppressive humidity, giant mosquitos, and suspicious locals.

In legal proceedings, a plea of *no lo contendere* indicates "I don't contend the charges" (meaning that I don't admit or deny the charges).

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11. **Contingent** [kən'tinjənt] (adjective or noun): Contingent (adjective) means subject to chance or dependent on conditions that are not yet certain. A contingent (noun) is a representative group.

In context: A **contingent** (noun) of archeologists determined that excavation of the pyramid was **contingent** (adjective) on both the political and the environmental climate.

Related word:

Contingency (noun): A contingency is a future event that is possible but that cannot be predicted with certainty.

12. **Disparity** [dəˈsperətē] (noun): A disparity is a great difference or imbalance.

In context: There is an increasing **disparity** among Alpine marmots (a mountain squirrel) between the number of offspring and their size.

13. **Dormant** ['dôrmənt] (adjective): Dormant means a state of sleep or inactivity (as when normal physical functions are suspended or slowed for a period of time).

In context: The seeds of many plants remain **dormant** during cold weather and return to activity in the spring.

A dormitory, a large bedroom for many sleepers, comes from the same Latin root as dormant: *dormire*, to sleep. Thinking about a dormitory may help you remember dormant!

14. **Elusive** [ē'lo͞osiv] (adjective): Elusive means difficult to catch, find, or achieve.

    In context: The snow leopard, one of the world's most **elusive** creatures, lives high in the mountains of East Asia and is rarely seen by humans.

15. **Enervate** ['enərˌvāt] (verb): To enervate means to weaken or make weary or drained of energy.

    In context: Although we considered ourselves in good physical condition, we were **enervated** by the hike up Bear Mountain.

16. **Eradicate** [əˈradəˌkāt] (verb): To eradicate means to destroy completely (very much like two words in Chapter 6: **obliterate** [word 41] and **annihilate** [word 9]).

    In context: It is hoped that the president's initiative will **eradicate** child hunger in this country.

17. **Erudite** ['er(y)əˌdīt] (adjective): Erudite means scholarly, knowledgeable, or well-educated.

    In context: The **erudite** Dr. Murphy was often consulted when students needed help with complex mathematical formulae.

18. **Excavation** [ˌekskəˈvāSH(ə)n] (noun): An excavation is an unearthing or a digging up.

    In context: The **excavation** of the polar cap revealed evidence to support the Big Bang Theory.

19. **Explicate** ['eksplәˌkāt] (verb): To explicate means to analyze and explain in detail.

    In context: The microbiologist tried to **explicate** his findings to me in language I could understand, but I left as confused as I was when I arrived.

    Related word:

    Inexplicable (adjective): Inexplicable means unexplainable; unable to be explicated.

20. **Expunge** [ik'spənj] (verb): To expunge means to erase or remove completely something that is unwanted or unpleasant.

BTW

If you think about something **extraneous** *as extra and therefore unnecessary and irrelevant, that will help you remember* **extraneous.**

In context: Shaka was thrilled to learn that she could **expunge** the F she received in French if she retook the class the following semester.

21. **Extraneous** [ik'strānēəs] (adjective): Extraneous means unrelated or irrelevant to the topic or matter.

In context: We decided that some variables were **extraneous** to our experiment, so we removed them from consideration.

22. **Facility** [fə'silətē] (noun): Facility means the quality of being easily performed; an aptitude; or a place provided for a specific purpose.

In context: Because of her **facility** with languages, Tracy was assigned to guide the international students through the orientation process.

You may know the other meaning of the word facility, a place or structure that has a specific function like a parking facility or a nursing facility.

23. **Feral** ['ferəl, 'firəl] (adjective): Feral means in a wild state, untamed or undomesticated.

In context: The wild cat is fierce and **feral** while the domestic cat is tame and trainable. (Someone needs to tell my cat that he is trainable!)

24. **Flagrant** ['flāgrənt] (adjective): Flagrant means conspicuously or obviously offensive.

In context: If a player commits a **flagrant** foul in basketball, he or she may be ejected from the game.

25. **Idiosyncrasy** [ˌidē əˈsiNGkrəsē] (noun): An idiosyncrasy is an odd habit or a quirk (see **quirk**, word 52 in Chapter 6) or a way of behaving peculiar to an individual.

    In context: My cat has one particularly annoying **idiosyncrasy**: When I put a glass of milk or water on the table, he will immediately jump up and knock it over!

26. **Impetus** [ˈimpətəs] (noun): Impetus means propelling force or energy.

    In context: The discovery of the Higgs boson, a sub-atomic particle, has been the **impetus** for physicists to search for other forms of matter and energy.

27. **Indeterminate** [ˌindəˈtərmənət] (adjective): Indeterminate means not exactly known or defined.

    In context: When a medical test yields **indeterminate** results, the physician faces a difficult task in deciding upon the best course of treatment.

28. **Induce** [inˈd(y)o͞os] (verb): To induce means to succeed in persuading or influencing someone to do something; to bring about or to give rise to.

    In context: When people are feeling depressed or socially isolated, going out for a walk may **induce** more positive feelings and an uplifted mood.

    Related word:

    Inducement (noun): An inducement is an incentive or a temptation: something that persuades or influences someone to do something.

29. **Inefficacious** [ˈinefiˈkāSHəs] (adjective): Inefficacious means ineffective or not producing the desired effect.

    In context: The medical response to the epidemic was slowed by the implementation of **inefficacious** treatments that did little to relieve the symptoms of patients.

30. **Inherent** [inˈhirənt, inˈherənt] (adjective): Inherent means existing in something as part of its essential character; belonging by nature or habit.

    In context: The heart surgeon's **inherent** honesty compelled him to admit that there was little he could do that would improve the patient's outcome.

31. **Innocuous** [iˈnäkyo͞o əs] (adjective): Innocuous means harmless, inoffensive, or safe.

In context: Although the student asked an **innocuous** question about the distribution of the profits from the fund-raising project, the point he raised caused a fierce debate about which charity would benefit.

32. **Inundate** [ˈinənˌdāt] (verb): To inundate means to overwhelm or to flood.

In context: Floodwaters periodically **inundate** the surrounding area and require that residents flee to higher ground.

Related word:

BTW

Iota *is also the ninth letter of the Greek alphabet.*

Inundation (noun): An inundation is a flood or an overwhelming abundance of people or things.

33. **Iota** [īˈōtə] (noun): An iota is an extremely small amount.

In context: Although I listened attentively to the economist's speech, his argument did not make an **iota** of sense to me.

34. **Itinerant** [īˈtinərənt, iˈtinərənt] (adjective or noun): Itinerant (adjective) means traveling from place to place. An itinerant (noun) is a person or thing that travels from place to place.

In context: Icebergs are known to be **itinerant** (adjective), floating far from their origin in the arctic regions. One **itinerant** (noun) was spotted as far south as Bermuda.

When you go on a trip, you often have an *itinerary*, a list of places on your route or journey you plan to visit.

35. **Luminous** [ˈlo͞omənəs] (adjective): Luminous means full of light, bright, or shining.

In context: The **luminous** faces of a thousand cell phones

shone out in the darkness of the stadium.

Related word:

Luminosity (noun): Luminosity means brightness or radiance.

36. **Malleable** ['malyəb(ə)l] (adjective): Malleable means able to be shaped or formed. A metal is malleable if it can be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking.

In context: Generally speaking, the habits of young people are more **malleable** than those of the old.

37. **Meritorious** [merə'tôrēəs] (adjective): Meritorious means deserving praise or reward (think of having merit).

In context: The chemist received a commendation for the **meritorious** service he performed in developing the vaccine.

38. **Meticulous** [mə'tikyələs] (adjective): Meticulous means showing great attention to detail or very careful and precise.

BTW

The prefix micro- means small (see Chapter 1), so a microorganism is a small organism or a tiny living thing.

In context: **Meticulous** about her work, Stephanie checked and rechecked every piece of data she had compiled.

39. **Microcosm** ['mīkrə,käzəm] (noun): A microcosm is a small world—a place or situation that captures in miniature the features of something larger. It is similar in meaning to **nanoworld**, which is derived from the Greek word *nanos* meaning dwarf. Technically, a nano is a billionth part of something, but it is used informally for any very small thing.

In context: Researchers appreciate the value of creating a **microcosm** in a flask as a way in which they can grow microorganisms to help them understand how larger organisms function in the actual world.

40. **Myriad** ['mirēəd] (adjective or noun): Myriad (adjective) means a great number. A myriad (noun) means a countless or extremely great number.

In context: **Myriad** (adjective) fruit flies were supposed to be

contained in the laboratory tank, but as we entered the lab, we found ourselves surrounded by a **myriad** (noun) of tiny flies.

41. **Noxious** ['näkSHəs] (adjective): Noxious means harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant.

    In context: The **noxious** fumes coming from the chemistry lab caused an immediate evacuation from the building.

42. **Obfuscate** ['äbfəˌskāt] (verb): To obfuscate means to make something unclear, confusing, or garbled.

    In context: Rather than admit he had plagiarized his paper, the student tried to **obfuscate** the issue by telling a long story about his computer malfunctioning and his printer not working.

    Related word:

    Obfuscation (noun): Obfuscation means the act of obscuring the intended meaning of communication or deliberately making something unclear and confusing.

BTW

Can you figure out the meaning of unscrupulous from the context in this sentence? (Hint: The word **scrupulous** *is word 55 in this chapter.*

43. **Obscure** [əb'skyo͝or] (adjective or verb): Obscure (adjective) means hidden, uncertain, or little known. To obscure (verb) means to keep something from being seen or to conceal.

    In context: The unscrupulous scientists conducted their experiments in an **obscure** (adjective) location to prevent outsiders from observing them. They hoped to **obscure** (verb) their findings until they could use them to make enormous profits for themselves.

    Related word:

    Obscurity (noun): Obscurity is a state of being unknown, inconspicuous, or unimportant.

44. **Pathogen** ['paTHəjən, 'paTHəˌjen] (noun): A pathogen is a disease-causing microorganism.

    In context: Unfortunately, new **pathogens** are acquiring

resistance more quickly than scientists are able to introduce new antibiotics.

45. **Pervasive** [pərˈvāsiv] (adjective): Pervasive means spreading widely throughout.

    In context: A **pervasive** problem in schools today is bullying; many schools have instituted anti-bullying programs, but changing ingrained behavior is a slow process.

46. **Preclude** [prəˈklo͞od] (verb): To preclude means to prevent from happening, to make impossible.

    In context: Limitations on indoor space **preclude** a larger gathering, so we are thinking of erecting a tent on the football field for graduation.

47. **Predatory** [ˈpredəˌtôrē] (adjective): Predatory describes an animal (or person) who hunts and (usually) kills others.

    In context: **Predatory** fish have infested the river and are annihilating the population of guppies.

    Related words:

    Prey (verb): To prey is hunt and kill for food.

    Prey (noun): Prey is an animal (or person) that is hunted and killed by another.

    Predation (noun): Predation is the act of preying on others.

    Predator (noun): A predator is an animal that preys on others or a person that exploits others.

48. **Prevailing** [priˈvāliNG] (adjective): Prevailing means existing at a particular time; current.

    In context: New research challenges the **prevailing** theory about microbes that live in extremely hot temperatures.

49. **Primordial** [prīˈmôrdēəl] (adjective): Primordial means existing at the beginning of time. **Primordial** is very similar in meaning to **antediluvian** (word 11 in Chapter 6).

    In context: Some scientists believe that the universe formed from a **primordial** gas cloud created by the Big Bang.

50. **Pristine** [ˈprisˌtēn, priˈstēn] (adjective): Pristine means pure and unspoiled; in its original condition.

    In context: To preserve the **pristine** wilderness, the state

declared that the land would be designated as a nature preserve.

51. **Prodigious** [prəˈdijəs] (adjective): Prodigious means remarkably great in extent, size, or degree.

In context: It is hoped by scientists that the newly discovered planet may hold a **prodigious** amount of as yet undetected water.

52. **Profuse** [prəˈfyo͞os] (adjective): Profuse means abundant or plentiful.

In context: As the air warms, its capacity for water vapor increases; an atmosphere with more moisture can then produce **profuse** precipitation.

Related word:

Profusion (noun): A profusion is a large quantity or an abundance of something. You may feel like you're facing a profusion of vocabulary words right now!

53. **Propitious** [prəˈpiSHəs] (adjective): Propitious means indicating a good chance of success or promising.

In context: After he answered several complicated math problems correctly, Jose thought it would be a **propitious** moment to ask the teacher to postpone the unit test until after homecoming weekend.

54. **Rapacious** [rəˈpāSHəs] (adjective): Rapacious means aggressively greedy.

In context: Every few years when suitable climatic conditions occur, the **rapacious** locusts form great swarms and devour entire fields of wheat.

55. **Scrupulous** [skro͞opyələs] (adjective): Scrupulous means having moral integrity, or diligent and attentive to details.

In context: The scientists, aware of the importance of their findings, conducted the study with **scrupulous** attention to the data.

Related words:

Scruple (noun): A scruple means a sense of right or wrong, or a feeling of doubt or hesitation.

Scruple (verb): To scruple means to hesitate or be reluctant to do something (usually caused by concern that something is

unethical or immoral).

Unscrupulous (adjective): Unscrupulous means dishonest or having no moral principles.

56. **Scrutinize** [ˈskrōōtnˌīz] (verb): To scrutinize means to examine or inspect carefully and thoroughly.

    In context: Crime scene investigators (CSI) are trained to **scrutinize** the crime scene so that no evidence is overlooked or lost.

    Related word:

    Scrutiny (noun): Scrutiny is careful, thorough observation and examination.

57. **Shroud** [SHroud] (noun or verb): A shroud (noun) is a cloth that covers or protects a person or object. It may also refer specifically to the cloth in which a corpse is wrapped. To shroud (verb) means to cover or envelop to hide something from view.

    In context: The fog crept in like a **shroud** (noun) over the fields. We felt isolated as the mist began to **shroud** (verb) the surrounding countryside.

58. **Squelch** [skwelCH] (verb): To squelch means to silence, to crush, to suppress, or to make a sucking sound like when you walk through deep mud.

    In context: Hoping to avoid a panic, the epidemiologists moved quickly to **squelch** rumors that a virus had escaped from their laboratory.

59. **Stratification** [ˌstratəfəˈkāSH(ə)n] (noun): Stratification is the arrangement or classification of something into different groups or layers. Stratification can mean the division into physical layers, as in the stratification of layers within rock formations, but it is often used to refer to arrangements in society, as in the stratification of social classes.

    In context: Some sociologists claim that income inequality is the greatest cause of social **stratification** in this country.

    Related words:

    Stratify (verb): To stratify means to form or arrange into layers.

    Strata (plural noun): Strata means layers. (The singular form of strata is stratum).

60. **Sublime** [səˈblīm] (adjective): Sublime means excellent, noble, majestic, or inspiring awe.

    In context: The view from the mountaintop was **sublime**, and we stood in awe of the majestic forest spread before us.

61. **Tactile** [ˈtaktl, ˈtakˌtīl] (adjective): Tactile means pertaining to the sense of touch or perceptible to touch (tangible).

    In context: In an experiment to indicate **tactile** sensitivity, the subjects were blindfolded and given a series of object to identify, using just their sense of touch.

62. **Teem** [tēm] (verb): To teem means to be filled with, overflowing with, or alive with.

    In context: We expect to be very successful with our fishing expedition today because fish **teem** in this spot in the river.

63. **Tranquil** [traNGkwəl] (adjective): Tranquil means restful, peaceful, calm, or serene.

    In context: I felt **tranquil** as I sat by the lake and watched the trees sway in the gentle breeze.

64. **Undulate** [ˈənjəˌlāt] (verb): To undulate means to move with a wave-like motion.

    In context: We watched as the bodies of the dancers would **undulate** to the beat of the bongo drums, wishing we could perform with such grace and flexibility.

    Related word:

    Undulation (noun): Undulation is a wave-like motion.

65. **Unstinting** [ˌənˈstin(t)iNG] (adjective): Unstinting means giving without restraint; unsparing.

    In context: I enjoyed working with my lab partner, for she was **unstinting** in her efforts to get all of our experiments completed on time.

    Related word:

    Stint (verb): To stint means to be ungenerous.

66. **Unwavering** [ənˈwāv(ə)ring] (adjective): Unwavering means remaining steady or unswerving.

    In context: Ruth Bader Ginsberg was admired for her **unwavering** commitment to equal rights.

Related word:

Waver (verb): To waver means to tremble or to sway back and forth between choices.

67. **Vernacular** [vər'nakyələr] (adjective or noun): Vernacular (adjective) describes everyday language spoken by ordinary people (as opposed to language used in more formal situations). It is a synonym for **colloquial** (word 20, Chapter 4). The vernacular (noun) is the language of the common people.

In context: Dante was the first great Italian writer to write in Italian, the **vernacular** (adjective) language, rather than the more formal Latin. He chose the **vernacular** (noun) to reach a larger audience.

68. **Versatile** [vərsətl] (adjective): Versatile means able to turn with ease from one thing to another or adaptable and resourceful.

In context: Sean is one of the most **versatile** actors, able to play a rebellious teenager in one film and a bitter middle-aged man in another.

69. **Vestigial** [ve'stij(ē)əl] (adjective): Vestigial means present in trace form; only a small remainder of something that was larger or more noticeable.

In context: It is an interesting fact that some snakes have **vestigial** legs, tiny hind leg bones buried in their muscles.

Related word:

Vestige (noun): A vestige is a remaining trace.

70. **Vibrant** [vībrənt] (adjective): Vibrant means full of energy and life.

In context: The artist Gauguin is known for the **vibrant** use of bright oranges and reds in his paintings.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 7-1

Select the best word from the word bank below to fill in the blanks in the sentences. Each word is used once.

contend	feral	versatile	obscure	flagrant
abstruse	inherent	scrutinize	luminous	eradicate

1. It was hoped that the vaccination would _____ the disease, once and for all time.
2. Mother Teresa was known for having a(n) _____ kindness and compassion that fueled her good works.
3. Babe Didrikson Zaharias is often considered the most _____ athlete of all times; she won a golf title, a basketball championship, and two gold and one silver medal in Olympic track and field.
4. When student plagiarism became so _____ that several students handed in the same research paper, the principal was forced to review the teacher's attention to research instruction.
5. Taking a(n) _____ animal from the wild into your home as a pet is a risky business, for it may never adjust to being domesticated.
6. The physics students spent hours in the library trying to figure out the _____ problem that their professor had assigned.
7. We were excited to see the solar eclipse, when the shadow of the moon would _____ the sun.
8. As we hiked up to the top of the mountain, we had to _____ with a howling wind and below-freezing temperatures.
9. It was lovely to be in the garden at night as the moon cast a _____ glow over the flowers.
10. In order to read the spidery handwriting on the original letter, we had to _____ the document with a magnifying glass.

EXERCISE 7-2

Match the word in the first column to its synonym in the second column.

_____	**1.** disparity	**A.**	weaken
_____	**2.** idiosyncrasy	**B.**	shapeless
_____	**3.** myriad	**C.**	ineffective
_____	**4.** adept	**D.**	generous
_____	**5.** pervasive	**E.**	unspoiled
_____	**6.** inefficacious	**F.**	inequality
_____	**7.** pristine	**G.**	widespread
_____	**8.** enervate	**H.**	many
_____	**9.** unstinting	**I.**	quirk
_____	**10.** amorphous	**J.**	adroit

8 Commonly Confused Words

MUST KNOW

Words that are spelled or pronounced alike are the ones most often confused.

Every year I find myself spending lots of time in class explaining the words in this chapter to students who struggle with whether to use **who** or **whom**, **accept** or **except**, **affect** or **effect**. I have found that students may know the meaning of all the individual words included in this chapter but have difficulty remembering the situation in which one word is correct and the other is incorrect. The main problem behind the confusion is that these words either look alike or sound alike or BOTH look alike AND sound alike! This confusion may cause grammatical errors in writing or misinterpretation of information in reading.

It will help clear up the confusion if you spend some time reviewing these words and doing the exercises at the end of the chapter. As you work through this chapter, pay particular attention to those words you have found confusing in the past.

1. Accept, Except

These two words are easily confused because they sound alike; however, your knowledge of the parts of speech will help you here because each functions as a different part of speech.

Accept [ək'sept]: Accept is a verb that means to receive.

In context: Hermione was able to **accept** her defeat by a faster swimmer.

Except [ikˈsept]: Except is a preposition that means to take or leave out.

> In context: Prabal won all the senior awards **except** the one he most wanted: valedictorian.

2. **Adverse, Averse**

These two words are often confused because they look alike and are both adjectives with negative meanings.

Adverse [adˈvərs, ˈadˌvərs]: Adverse is an adjective that means unfavorable.

> In context: Seth had an **adverse** reaction to the new medication and was advised to discontinue taking it.

Averse [əˈvərs]: Averse is an adjective that means opposed.

> In context: Although Beth preferred singing before a live audience, she was not **averse** to performing on the videotape.

3. **Advice, Advise**

These two words are easily confused because they look and sound similar; however, they function as different parts of speech and are pronounced slightly differently. Notice in the pronunciation guide, **advice** is pronounced with the soft sound of “s,” and **advise** is pronounced with the “z” sound of “s.”

Advice [ədˈvīs]: Advice is a noun that means guidance or recommendation for future action.

> In context: Jessica gave Sydney good **advice** about applying for a job.

Advise [ədˈvīz]: Advise is a verb that means to offer suggestions about a course of action.

> In context: Jessica felt she had to **advise** Sydney not to take the job with the untrustworthy law firm.

4. **Affect, Effect**

These two words are so easy to mix up because they can be used as the same or different parts of speech. Let’s start with the most common meanings of these words.

Most commonly:

Affect [əˈfekt] (verb): Affect as a verb means to influence (or, less commonly, to put on a false appearance).

In context: Cloudy and rainy days often **affect** my mood, but I **affect** a cheerful expression to hide my gloominess.

Effect [əˈfekt] (noun): Effect the noun means the result or consequence of something.

In context: Some foods can have a harmful **effect** on the digestive system.

Now, the less common uses of these words:

Affect [ˈa-ˌfekt]: When affect is a noun, it means facial features as they reveal an emotion (or lack of emotion).

In context: The criminal showed no **affect** when he was forced to face the devastating result of his actions.

Effect [ēˈfekt]: When used as a verb, effect means to cause something to happen, to bring about.

In context: In using the experimental drug, the doctors hoped to **effect** an improvement in the patient's condition.

5. Allusion, Illusion

These two words are easily confused because they are both nouns and sound similar; however, they have very different meanings.

Allusion [əˈlo͞oZHən]: Allusion is a noun that means an indirect reference to something else. It is often used to mean a reference to another work of literature.

In context: Shakespeare's plays are filled with **allusions** to Greek mythology. (See word 6, Chapter 4 for the verb **to allude**.)

Illusion [iˈlo͞oZHən]: Illusion is a noun that means a sight or a thing that is likely to be wrongly interpreted by the senses, like a vision, a fantasy, or a deception.

In context: Hamlet is not sure if the ghost of his father is real or an **illusion.**

6. Appraise, Apprise

Although these two words are both verbs and sound similar, they have different meanings.

Appraise [əˈprāz]: Appraise is a verb that means to assess.

In context: My aunt asked the jeweler to **appraise** the value of my grandmother's necklace.

Apprise [əˈprīz]: Apprise is a verb that means to inform.

In context: My aunt was pleasantly surprised when the jeweler called her to **apprise** her of the value of the necklace he had appraised.

7. Assure, Ensure, Insure

Although these three words are all verbs and sound similar, they have different meanings.

Assure [əˈSHo͝or]: Assure is a verb that means to tell someone that something will definitely happen or is definitely true.

In context: Jonathan tried to **assure** his son that he would return to pick him up after school.

Ensure [inˈSHo͝or, enˈSHo͝or]: Ensure is a verb that means to guarantee or make sure of something.

In context: The chemistry teacher took steps to **ensure** that no one conducted the experiment without proper safety precautions.

Insure [inˈSHo͝or]: Insure is a verb that means to take out an insurance policy.

In context: When the hockey equipment was lost in transit to the game, the players were relieved that coach had made arrangements to **insure** it.

8. Censure, Censor

These two words are often confused because they sound alike, and both have negative meanings. They can also both also be used as nouns or verbs.

Censure [ˈsen(t)SHər]: When censure is used as verb, it means to criticize strongly. When censure is used as a noun, it means a formal expression of disapproval.

In context: The debate club president was compelled to **censure** (verb) a member for speaking disrespectfully to a member of the opposing side. The member received a letter of **censure** (noun) from the Debate Society.

Censor [ˈsensər]: When censor is used as a verb, it means to ban parts of a text or film as unacceptable. When **censor** is used as a noun, it means the person who is doing the banning.

In context: The **censor** (noun) felt no need to **censor** (verb) the

editorial in the school newspaper, as it met the criteria for an acceptable statement of dissenting opinion.

Just to make your life even more confusing, the difference between censure and censor becomes a bit more complicated when you use the adjective form of the verb *censure*. The verb form *censure* changes to the adjectival form *censorious* (severely critical), which looks more like *censor* than *censure*!

9. **Complement, Compliment**

These two words are often confused because they look and sound alike, and both can be used as nouns or verbs.

Complement ['käm-plə-mənt]: When complement is used as a noun, it means something that completes or makes better or perfect. When complement is used as a verb, it means to complete or enhance by providing something additional.

> In context: Alexis choose a beautiful scarf to **complement** (verb) her outfit for the interview. Her shoes were a great **complement** (noun) to her professional appearance.

Compliment ['kämpləmənt]: When compliment is used as a noun, it means words of praise. When compliment is used as a verb, it means to offer words of praise.

> In context: When his English teacher **complimented** (verb) Charlie on his essay, he was very pleased by the **compliment** (noun).

10. **Conscience, Conscious**

So confusing, right? These two words look and sound alike, but they have almost nothing to do with each other.

Conscience ['kän(t)SHəns]: Conscience is a noun that refers to your inner, moral guide, the voice in your head that tells you right from wrong.

> In context: Hanging out with my friends suddenly didn't seem like such a good idea when my **conscience** reminded me that I promised my mom I'd drive my little brother home.

Conscious ['kän(t)SHəs]: Conscious is an adjective that means

awake and aware of one's surroundings.

In context: I was **conscious** of my little brother, impatiently hovering near the door.

11. Content, Contempt

These two words are often confused because they sound alike, but they have very different meanings.

Content ['kən tent]: When **content** is used as a noun, it means a feeling of satisfaction or happiness. (Note the accent is on the first syllable.) It can also be used a noun to mean the things included in something (as in the **content** of a book). When **content** [kən'tent] is used as an adjective, it means happy or pleased. (Note the accent is on the second syllable.) When **content** ['kən tent] is used as a verb, it means to soothe or to please.

In context: Sophie finally felt **content** (adjective) in her new home after years of believing nothing would **content** (verb) her except a house near the beach. This was a time of **content** (noun) in her life.

Contempt [kən'tem(p)t]: Contempt is a noun that means the feeling that something is deserving of disrespect or scorn.

In context: Those students who cheated on the test were treated with **contempt** by their fellow students.

12. Defuse, Diffuse

These two words are often confused because they sound alike, and they can be used as the same part of speech.

Defuse [dē'fyo͞oz]: Defuse is a verb that means to make a situation less tense or to remove a fuse from an explosive device.

In context: Hayley cracked a joke to **defuse** the escalating tension in the room during the debate.

Diffuse [di-'fyüs]: When diffuse is used as a verb, it means to spread over a wide area. When diffuse is used as an adjective, it means scattered or spread out over a large area.

In context: We hoped that the heat from the fire would **diffuse** (verb) and warm the freezing room. Slowly, the **diffuse** (adjective) glow from the fire cast a soft light over the entire room.

13. Disinterested, Uninterested

These two words are often confused because they are both adjectives and look like they should have the same meaning, but they have different meanings.

Disinterested [disˈintrəstəd, disˈin(t)əˌrestəd]: Disinterested is an adjective that means impartial.

> In context: The panel of **disinterested** judges decided the winners of the writing contest.

Uninterested [ˌənˈintrəstəd, ˌənˈin(t)əˌrestəd]: Uninterested is an adjective that means bored or unconcerned about.

> In context: **Uninterested** in the results of the singing contest after he had been disqualified, Arthur left the auditorium.

14. Elicit, Illicit

These two words are often confused because they sound alike.

Elicit [ēˈlisət]: Elicit is a verb that means to draw or bring out (as in a response or an answer).

> In context: The teacher attempted to **elicit** the correct responses from the students.

Illicit [i(l)ˈlisit]: Illicit is an adjective that means illegal.

> In context: The CEO of the company was found guilty of engaging in **illicit** business dealings.

15. Eminent, Imminent

These two words are often confused because they are both adjectives and sound alike.

Eminent [ˈemənənt]: Eminent is an adjective that means famous and respected.

> In context: The **eminent** podiatrist won the Caregiver of the Year award.

Imminent [ˈimənənt]: Imminent is an adjective that means about to happen or ready to take place.

> In context: The campers realized a flash flood was **imminent**, and they scrambled to higher ground.

16. Flaunt, Flout

These two words are often confused because they are both verbs that look and sound alike.

Flaunt [flônt, flänt]: Flaunt is a verb that means to show off.

In context: Mariana wanted to **flaunt** her A+ grade in algebra, but held back when she saw her friend's paper had received a C.

Flout [flout]: Flout is a verb that means to defy, especially in a way that shows scorn.

In context: Rosa **flouted** the dress code and wore ripped jeans to graduation.

17. Figuratively, Literally

These two words originally had opposite meanings, but they are often confused, especially since the meaning of **literally** has shifted in recent years.

Figuratively ['figyərətəvlē]: Figuratively is an adverb that means metaphorically, or not in an exact or literal sense.

In context: I am so hungry I could eat a horse, **figuratively** speaking, of course. (This sentence indicates that you would not actually eat a horse.)

Literally ['litərəlē, 'litrəlē]: Literally is an adverb that means in an exact or literal manner or sense.

In context: The parking lot was **literally** swamped with frogs when the lake overflowed into town. (This means there were actually hundreds of frogs jumping around in the parking lot.)

Literally has shifted closer to figuratively in meaning. While it is not exactly the same as figuratively, literally can be used to exaggerate or emphasize as in the sentence below:

I literally died when I won the award for Most Improved Student! (Obviously, literally does not exactly mean you died; it is being used for emphasis.)

18. Imply, Infer

These two words are often used interchangeably, but actually, they have different meanings. Knowing the difference will highlight your *exemplary* verbal ability!

Imply [im'plī]: Imply is a verb that means to hint at something without directly stating it.

In context: Ms. Stein **implied** that it would be worth our while to study the vocabulary words, but she never said we would have a surprise quiz.

Infer [in'fər]: Infer means to deduce something without it being directly stated.

In context: Because Ms. Stein **implied** that knowing our vocabulary by Friday would be important, I **inferred** that we would have a quiz in class.

19. Lead, Lead, Led

These three words are often confused because they look and sound alike. Although **lead** and **lead** are spelled exactly the same, they are pronounced differently and function as different parts of speech.

Lead [lēd] (note the long e sound): Lead is a noun or a verb or an adjective. When it is used as a noun, it means the first position or the head place. When it is used as a verb, it means to conduct or steer someone forward. When it is used as an adjective, it means acting or serving as the head or leader.

In context: My sister was thrilled to get the **lead** (noun) in the play. The **lead** (adjective) role was that of a woman who needed to find a way to save her family's land. On the night of the final performance, my sister was given the honor to **lead** (verb) the director of the play to center stage to receive the applause.

Lead [led] (note the short e sound): Lead is a noun and the name of a soft, heavy metallic element.

In context: It has been found that paint that contains **lead** has been the source of illness in children who ingest the paint from their walls.

Led [led] (note the short e sound): Led is a verb that is the past tense of the verb "to lead."

In context: Derek was the quarterback who **led** the team to victory.

20. Loath, Loathe

These two words are often confused because they look and sound alike.

Loath [lōTH] (pronounced as if it rhymes with **both**): Loath is an adjective that means reluctant, unwilling.

In context: We were having such a wonderful time at the concert that we were **loath** to leave.

Loathe [lōTH] (pronounced as if it rhymes with **clothe)**: Loathe is a verb that means to feel intense dislike for or to hate.

In context: As much as I know it is unreasonable, I can't help but **loathe** spiders.

21. Sight, Site, Cite

These three words are often confused because they sound alike. Note that all three words are pronounced exactly the same.

Sight [sīt]: Sight is a noun meaning the ability to see or a visual perception.

In context: The amazing singer Stevie Wonder lost his **sight** shortly after birth.

Site [sīt] Site is a noun meaning a location.

In context: This hill is the proposed **site** for the new gymnasium.

Cite [sīt]: Cite is a verb that means to quote evidence from a text.

In context: In your essay, you should **cite** evidence from the novel to support your claims.

22. Than, Then

These two words are often confused because they look and sound alike.

Than [THan, THən]: Than is a conjunction to use with comparisons

In context: I would rather run three miles **than** play volleyball.

Then [THen]: Then is an adverb that means at that time, or next.

In context: I was rooming with my best friend **then** (meaning at that time).

In context: I studied for my Spanish test for four hours, and **then** I went to bed (meaning next).

23. Valuable, Invaluable

These two words are often confused because they look like they should be opposites, but they are not.

Valuable ['valy(o͞o)əb(ə)]: Valuable is an adjective meaning having great worth.

In context: My great aunt's home is filled with **valuable** antiques.

Invaluable [in'valy(o͞o)əb(ə)l]: Invaluable is an adjective meaning so valuable that it is priceless.

In context: My great aunt is an **invaluable** source of information about eighteenth-century art.

24. Who, Whom

These two words are often confused, but they have different grammatical functions.

Who [ho͞o]: Who is a pronoun that is used a subject or as a subject complement. Pronouns that are used as subjects or subject complements are called nominative pronouns.

In context: Ms. Lopez is the teacher **who** created the student internship program. (**Who** is the correct word here because **who** is the subject of the verb "created.")

Whom [ho͞om]: Whom is a pronoun that is used as an object: either the receiver of the action of the verb or the object of a preposition. Pronouns that are used as objects are called objective pronouns.

In context: **Whom** did Ms. Lopez choose to present first? (**Whom** is the correct word here because Ms. Lopez is the subject and **whom** is the object or the receiver of the action.)

I give my students this sentence to help them remember the difference between who and whom:

Who hit whom?

This sentence can help you remember that WHO is the doer of the action and WHOM is the receiver of the action.

25. Who's, Whose

These two words are confused in student writing almost as often as **who** and **whom**! The difference is all in understanding that possessive pronouns (for example, *his, hers, mine, yours, ours, its, whose*) are already possessive. They don't need an apostrophe to make them even more possessive!

So:

Whose [hōōz]: Whose is a possessive pronoun that means "belonging to whom."

> In context: I don't know **whose** vocabulary list is lying on the floor in shreds. (Since I don't know who owns the list, I use the pronoun **who** and make it possessive.)

Who's [hōōz]: Who's is a contraction of two words: **who** and **is**. The apostrophe stands in for the missing letter *i*.

> In context: I don't know **who's** going to claim the shredded list. (**Who's** is standing in for **who is.)**

EXERCISE

EXERCISE 8-1

Select the best word from the parentheses in the sentences below.

1. I wasn't sure (who, whom) to vote for in the student council election.
2. I hope your part-time job will not (affect, effect) your grades.
3. I have found that my French class is much more difficult this year (than, then) last year's.
4. In science class, we studied the (affect, effect) when seeds are (diffused, defused) by the wind.
5. I feel nothing but (content, contempt) for the dog owner (whose, who's) allowing his pet to sleep outside on a frigid night.
6. When I visited the (sight, site, cite) of the new elementary school, I could see that work has not yet begun.
7. I hope to find out (who, whom) (censored, censured) the film by removing all the love scenes.
8. Once you have decided where to apply to college, you can (than, then) take a virtual tour online.
9. Some colleges have (affected, effected) changes in their programs to allow students to attend class remotely.
10. Because I prefer seeing animals in the wild, I find that I am (loath, loathe) to go on the field trip to the zoo.
11. Last time our school played the North High lacrosse team, we

(lead, led) at the half but lost the game.

12. When you use a primary source for your research, you must be sure to (sight, site, cite) the source correctly.

13. I went to talk to some local businesspeople to get some (advice, advise) about starting my own business.

14. The posted guidelines (ensure, insure) that everyone's safety will be protected.

15. The green in your sweater is a lovely (complement, compliment) to your eyes.

16. I find that I am not (adverse, averse) to the prospect of taking class outside today.

17. I made a (conscience, conscious) decision to compete my homework on Friday so I could have the weekend free.

18. My English teacher tried to (elicit, illicit) some responses to the film from the students, but they were too bored and (uninterested, disinterested) to reply.

19. I am going to take late classes in college because I (loath, loathe) getting up early.

20. I was able to (infer, imply) from my teacher's frown that my test results were not great.

21. Those who (flaunt, flout) the rules by not wearing proper footwear will not be allowed on the tennis courts.

22. My mom said that she did not mean to (infer, imply) that I hadn't cleaned my room before I left.

23. Some colleges are beginning to (accept, except) students who haven't completed all four years of high school.

24. At one point in the play, Macbeth believes the witches are merely an (illusion, allusion).

25. The visiting professor is an (eminent, imminent) scholar of Irish poetry.

Flashcard
App

9 Transitional Words

MUST KNOW

- Certain words establish relationships between sentences and paragraphs and provide logical transitions.

I'm sure you have spent some time in your classes learning about transitional words. You most likely know that without these "connectors" writing can sound choppy and relationships between ideas can be confusing. Transitional words are important in reading and writing because they establish the logical connections between ideas within a sentence, within a paragraph, and within an entire passage. These connecting words help the reader understand the relationships that writers want to establish, and they help create coherence (logical organization). It will be helpful for you to understand transitions, both in your reading and writing for school and on any standardized tests you may take. On the Writing and Language section on the SAT and the English section on the ACT and the reading passages on the AP Language and Composition and the AP Literature exam, transitional words require special attention.

Below is a by no means complete list of transitional words, which would include such commonly used words as *also*, *however, in addition,* and *therefore*. I have included in this chapter the less commonly used transitional words that many of my students have found unfamiliar or confusing.

Study the words below and try to use them in your own writing to create more coherent paragraphs and essays.

1. **Accordingly** [əˈkôrdiNGlē] (adverb): Accordingly means “in a way that is appropriate” or “properly.”

    In context: The student council candidates were asked to speak briefly on their qualifications; **accordingly**, they kept their remarks to two minutes.

2. **Albeit** [ôlˈbēit, alˈbēit] (conjunction): Albeit means “even though” or “although.”

    In context: We agreed to the new rules of procedure, **albeit** with great reluctance.

3. **Consequently** [ˈkänsəkwəntlē] (adverb): Consequently indicates causation: something occurs as a result of something else.

    In context: The snow fell steadily throughout the weekend; **consequently**, we had a snow day on Monday.

4. **Hence** [hens] (adverb): Hence means “for this reason.”

    In context: Students showed up for the graduation rehearsal in wild and crazy outfits; **hence,** a dress code proclamation was issued for all seniors.

5. **Lest** [lest] (conjunction): Lest means “with the intention of preventing” or “to avoid the risk of.”

    In context: Students were asked to wear protective masks when spraying glitter paint on the posters, **lest** they get glitter in their eyes.

6. **Nevertheless** [nevərTHəˈles] (adverb): Nevertheless means “in spite of all that.”

    In context: It snowed several inches the night before; **nevertheless**, the parade went on as planned.

7. **Nonetheless** [nənTHəˈles] (adverb): Nonetheless means “in spite of that.”

    In context: Unhappy as she was with her performance on the balance beam, Sylvia **nonetheless** pasted a smile on her face and stood with the team.

8. **Notwithstanding** [ˌnätwiTHˈstandiNG] (preposition): Notwithstanding means “in spite of.”

    In context: Everyone agreed that Professor Dumble, **notwithstanding** his advanced years, was up to date on the latest music.

9. **Subsequently** [səbsəkwəntlē] (adverb): Subsequently is a time word that means "afterward."

    In context: The school built a new, state-of-the-art science wing; **subsequently**, several students engaged in prize-winning research projects.

10. **Thereby** [THerˈbī] (adverb): Thereby means "as a result of that" or "by that means."

    In context: Gene jostled the limb of the tree, **thereby** causing Finny to fall and break his leg.

11. **Whereas** [(h)werˈaz] (conjunction): Whereas means "in contrast or comparison with the fact that."

    In context: Ebenezer was known to wear only dark and plain clothing, **whereas** his sister's wardrobe was bright and highly decorated.

12. **Whereby** [(h)werˈbī] (adverb): Whereby means "by which."

    In context: The school instituted a check-in policy **whereby** parents are required to sign weekly progress reports for their children.

Punctuation of Transitional Words

Punctuation of transitional words is sometimes a bit tricky.

- **If the transitional word is a conjunction used to join two independent (main) clauses or a conjunctive adverb (an adverb joining two independent clauses), then use a semicolon before the transitional word and a comma after it. (See the example "In context" sentences for words 1, 3, 4, 6, and 9.)**
- **If the transitional word is used as an adverb or preposition within a clause, it needs no punctuation. (See the example "In context" sentences for words 5, 7, and 12.)**
- **If the transitional word breaks the flow of the ideas within one clause (not between two independent clauses), then use a comma before it. (See the example "In context" sentences for words 2, 10, and 11.)**
- **If the transitional word begins a phrase that interrupts the flow of the sentence, then set it off with commas (comma before and comma after). (See the "In context" sentence for word 8.)**

The most important rule: Use a semicolon, not a comma, to connect two independent clauses—unless they are very, very short! (Example: I came, I saw, I conquered.)

EXERCISE

EXERCISE 9-1

Select the word that provides the most logical transition in the sentence.

1. My mom does not like to use the GPS on her phone; (consequently, whereas,) she got lost driving home in a snowstorm.
2. The news of the imminent school closing was met with sadness from the community; (nevertheless, accordingly,) graduation went on as usual.
3. Lettie made an arrangement with her employer (whereas, whereby) she could arrive late on the days when she had baseball practice.
4. The study followed several students who dramatically improved their vocabulary and (subsequently, notwithstanding) improved their writing grades.
5. Exercise strengthens the heart muscle (thereby, albeit) reducing the likelihood of a heart attack.
6. Some students love the new salad bar in the cafeteria, (whereas, consequently) others find it inconvenient.
7. The school drama presentation was well-acted (lest, albeit) a bit too long.
8. *Crime and Punishment* is 600 pages long; (nonetheless, consequently,) I found it fast and fascinating reading.
9. We left early in the morning for my college interview (lest, thereby) we get caught in traffic and be late.
10. Mr. Ryan suspected that students were sharing test questions with his later classes; (nonetheless, accordingly,) he changed all the questions to test his theory.
11. The moon was obscured by cloud cover; (whereby, hence,) we will try our new telescope again on a clearer night.
12. We decided to go ahead with the plan for a senior picnic,

(notwithstanding, thereby) some students' preference for an amusement park trip.

10 Literary Terms

MUST KNOW

Some words are most frequently used as literary terms.

During your middle- and high-school years, you probably have learned all about similes and metaphors in your English classes, so you may wonder why I include these words in the Must Know vocabulary. Educators have learned from research that understanding academic and content-specific (Tier 3) vocabulary leads to better reading comprehension and better writing. Better reading comprehension and better writing lead to academic success and real-life success. So, let's take a close look at some literary terms that writers use to create imagery and meaning.

1. **Allegory** [ˈalə¸gôrē] (noun): An allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning

   In context: *The Wizard of Oz* is an **allegory** in which characters embark on a journey to appeal to a wizard to grant them a quality they are lacking. In their adventures along the way, they discover in themselves the very qualities they thought they lacked.

2. **Alliteration** [ə¸litəˈrāSH(ə)n] (noun): Alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant sounds in adjacent or closely connected words.

   In context: The tongue-twister "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" has obvious **alliteration**. In poetry, **alliteration** often adds to the rhythm or mood of a poem and

can create an emotional effect like softness or sleepiness.

In these lines from "After Apple Picking," Robert Frost creates the feeling of sleepiness in the repetition of the "s" sound in these lines:

> E**ss**ence of winter **s**leep is on the night,
> The **sc**ent of apple**s**: I am drow**s**ing off.
> I cannot rub the **s**trangeness from my **s**ight
> I got from looking through a pane of gla**ss**

3. **Anachronism** [əˈnakrəˌnizəm] (noun): An anachronism is something that is out of place in time.

   In context: I wonder if Shakespeare was aware of the **anachronism** in his play *Julius Caesar* when Brutus says, "Peace, Count the clock." Of course, there were no striking clocks in ancient Rome, when sundials were used to tell the time.

Sometimes anachronisms are unintentional: In a famous error in the television series *Game of Thrones*, a cast member left a Starbucks coffee cup on the set when the episode was filmed. Millions of viewers noted the anachronism, much to the embarrassment of the crew!

4. **Archetype** [ˈärkəˌtīp] (noun): An archetype is an original pattern—all things of the same type are modeled after the archetype. In literature, an archetype is a character who embodies a set of qualities that are specific and identifiable for readers. For example, Romeo is the archetype young lover; Han Solo is the archetype loner outlaw; and Holden Caulfield is the archetype confused young man.

   In context: Yoda is the **archetype** sage character, the one whose wisdom helps guide the other characters.

5. **Euphemism** [ˈyōōfəˌmizəm] (noun): A euphemism is a mild or indirect expression that substitutes for a more unpleasant word.

   In context: We have many **euphemisms** in English—we say someone has "passed on" rather than died; we say "let go" rather than fired; we say "between jobs" rather than

unemployed: we say “friendly fire” rather than killed by one’s own troops; we say “ethnic cleansing” rather than genocide—all expressions that lessen the painfulness of the truth.

6. **Flashback** [ˈflaSHˌbak] (noun): A flashback is a scene in a book or film that shifts to an earlier time.

   In context: The novel *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad is told in **flashback**, as the character Marlow begins to tell his friends a riveting story about his time as a riverboat captain in the Congo.

7. **Foreshadowing** [fôrˈSHadō iNG] (noun): A foreshadowing is a warning or a hint of a future event. It is a literary technique often used to create suspense as the reader (or viewer) knows something the character doesn’t.

BTW

Hubris *comes from the Greek hybris, meaning “presumption toward the gods.” In other words, a character who displays hubris thinks he or she is on par with the gods. Hamartia, another word that comes to us from Greek, means flaw or fault. Thus, hubris is the hamartia of excessive pride.*

   In context: The repetitive use of the phrase “Winter is coming” in *Game of Thrones* is a **foreshadowing** of the terrible events to come.

8. **Hubris** [ˈ(h)yo͞obrəs] (noun): Hubris means excessive pride or arrogance. It is the quality that often leads to the tragic downfall of a hero.

   In context: Macbeth’s **hubris** leads to his downfall: he has ignored the many warnings that his ability to think rationally has been undermined by his ambition and desire for power.

9. **Hyperbole** [hīˈpərbəlē] (noun): A hyperbole is an exaggerated statement used for effect (not meant to be taken literally).

   In context: In these lines from his poem “As I Walked Out One Evening,” the poet W. H. Auden uses **hyperbole** to emphasize the extent of his love:

   “I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you
   Till China and Africa meet,

And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street."

Related word:

Hyperbolic (adjective): Hyperbolic means greatly exaggerated.

10. **Imagery** [ˈimij(ə)rē] (noun): Imagery means descriptive or figurative language that creates a picture in the mind of the reader by appealing to the senses.

    In context: In these lines from his poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," William Wordsworth creates visual **imagery** so that the reader can "see" what he sees.

    When all at once I saw a crowd,
    A host, of golden daffodils;
    Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
    Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

11. **Irony** [ˈīrənē] (noun): Irony is created when there is a difference between expectation and reality, when there is a contradiction between what is and what is expected, or when some twist of fate occurs. Irony can be found in both comedy and tragedy.

    In context: I couldn't miss the **irony** when my new t-shirt emblazoned with "Buy American Products" arrived, and I noticed the label said "Made in China."

12. **Juxtaposition** [ˌjəkstəpəˈziSH(ə)n] (noun): Juxtaposition is the placement of things side by side in order to point out differences. The purpose of juxtaposition is to call attention to the particular differing characteristics.

    In context: The **juxtaposition** of the kind and loving Cinderella with her evil stepsisters serves to emphasize Cinderella's innate goodness and worthiness to be the wife of the prince.

One of the most famous examples of an extended juxtaposition in literature is found in the opening lines of Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. These lines are also an example of a paradox (Chapter 6, word 46).

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of

belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair . . .”

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13. **Metaphor** [ˈmetəˌfôr, ˈmetəˌfər] (noun): A metaphor is a comparison in which one thing is related to or compared to something different, for example “Life is a journey.” Unlike a simile, a metaphor doesn’t use the words “like” or “as.” Metaphors enrich writing, making the thoughts and images of the writer more real to readers by *touching their senses.* (That actually is a metaphor: The writer doesn’t “touch” the readers’ senses.)

Don’t think of a metaphor as solely a poetic device. We use metaphors in conversation all the time: “I pigged out last night.” “He’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing.” “Life is a battlefield.”

In context: One of the most memorable **metaphors** from Shakespeare’s plays comes from the comedy *As You Like It,* when the character Jaques says “All the world’s a stage / And all the men and women merely players . . . ” (Act II Sc. 7).

14. **Motif** [mōˈtēf] (noun): A motif in literature is a repetition of a symbol, theme, or mood. The motif recurs and echoes in readers’ minds, reminding them of the writer’s message.

In context: The **motif** of rabbits, a symbol of George and Lennie’s unattainable dream for the future, runs throughout John Steinbeck’s novel *Of Mice and Men.*

15. **Onomatopoeia** [ˌänəˌmatəˈpēə, ˌänəˌmätəˈpēə] (noun): Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates a sound. In an Emily Dickenson poem, for example, the first line is “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died.” The word “buzz” is an example of onomatopoeia.

In context: Young children learn **onomatopoeia** when they sing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” and they imitate animal sounds with “a moo, moo here and a cluck, cluck there. . . .”

16. **Oxymoron** [ˌäksəˈmôrˌän] (noun): An oxymoron is a figure of speech that juxtaposes (aha! see word 12) two words with contradictory meanings, like an “open secret.” Oxymorons add another level of meaning, and often reveal a deeper truth. For

example, In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet says, “Parting is such sweet sorrow . . .” (Act II Sc. 2). The oxymoron “sweet sorrow” conveys Juliet’s contradictory feelings of love for Romeo and sadness at their parting.

In context: Some **oxymorons** create humor like “jumbo shrimp” or “original copy,” while others like “silent scream” or “terrible beauty” evoke deeper emotions.

17. **Personification** [pərˌsänəfəˈkāSH(ə)n] (noun): Personification is the attribution of life-like characteristics to abstract, nonhuman or inanimate (not alive) things. When we make statements like “That Spanish test killed me,” we are using personification.

In context: In his oft-quoted poem “Death Be Not Proud,” John Donne uses **personification** to embody death with human characteristics. The poet begins the poem with a warning to Death: “Death be not proud, though some have called thee / Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so . . .”

18. **Prose** [prōz] (noun): Prose is writing that is not poetry. Prose is written in sentences and organized into paragraphs (while poetry is written in lines and organized into stanzas). Novels, short stories, essays, and articles are all examples of prose.

In context: Many students prefer to read **prose** rather than poetry, finding the language and structure of poetry somewhat confusing.

19. **Satire** [ˈsaˌtī(ə)r] (noun): Satire is the use of humor (often ironic), exaggeration, or ridicule to point out stupidity or foolishness in people or society in general. The purpose of satire is to encourage reform of this stupidity or foolishness.

In context: In 1729 Jonathan Swift published his famous (and rather horrifying) **satire** *A Modest Proposal,* in which he mocks the uncaring attitudes of the wealthy toward the poor by suggesting that a solution to both over-population and food shortages in Ireland would be to sell Irish babies as food to rich people.

20. **Simile** [ˈsiməlē] (noun): A simile is a comparison of two unrelated things using the words “like” or “as.” We use similes in conversation all the time: “I slept like a baby” or “I am as blind as a bat.”

In context: Wordsworth uses a **simile** to compare the field of daffodils to stars when he describes the flowers as “Continuous

as the stars that shine / And twinkle on the milky way."

EXERCISE

EXERCISE 10-1

In the sentences below, match the literary device in the column A to the example in column B. Each word is used once.

A	B
1. metaphor	A. A firehouse burns down.
2. onomatopoeia	B. I studied for a thousand hours last night.
3. personification	C. Icarus believed that, like the gods, he could fly to the sun with wings made of wax.
4. oxymoron	D. Each student is an explorer of his or her destiny.
5. alliteration	E. The fireworks sizzled and popped.
6. irony	F. I am facing a negative cash flow.
7. anachronism	G. She sat silently facing the seamless sea.
8. euphemism	H. I felt the sun kiss my face when I walked outside.
9. hubris	I. I asked my teacher for his unbiased opinion.
10. hyperbole	J. Julius Caesar was reading a book when he was interrupted by Brutus.

11 Vocabulary in Context

MUST KNOW

Reading passages offer the best practice for using your knowledge of vocabulary in context.

Read the following passages and then use your knowledge of vocabulary to answer the questions after each passage.

Passage 1

Questions 1 to 10 are based on passage 1.

The following passage is adapted from Bleak House, *a serial novel published by Charles Dickens in 1852–53. In the novel, Lady Dedlock, the wife of Sir Leicester Dedlock, is the beneficiary of a will. Mr. Tulkinghorn, a solicitor (lawyer), reads the will to Lady Dedlock. Some of the text's original words have been replaced with vocabulary words from this book, but the meanings remain essentially the same.*

Sir Leicester Dedlock is with my Lady and is happy to see Mr. Tulkinghorn. There is an air of prescription about him which is always agreeable to Sir Leicester; he receives it as a kind of tribute. He likes Mr. Tulkinghorn's dress; there is a kind of tribute in that too. It is quite [1] **eminent**, and likewise, not in any way, [2] **foppish.** It expresses, as it were, the steward of the legal mysteries, the butler of the legal cellar, of the Dedlocks.

Has Mr. Tulkinghorn any idea of this himself? It may be so, or it may

not, but there is this remarkable circumstance to be noted in everything associated with my Lady Dedlock as one of a class—as one of the leaders and representatives of her [3] **microcosm.** She supposes herself to be an [4] **enigmatic** Being, quite out of the reach and ken of ordinary mortals —seeing herself in her glass, where indeed she looks so. Yet every dim little star revolving about her, from her maid to the manager of the Italian Opera, knows her [5] **shortcomings**, haughtinesses, and [6] **caprices** and lives upon as accurate a calculation and as nice a measure of her moral nature as her dressmaker takes of her physical proportions. Is a new dress, a new custom, a new singer, a new dancer, a new form of jewellery, a new dwarf or giant, a new chapel, a new anything, to be set up? There are [7] **deferential** people in a dozen callings whom my Lady Dedlock suspects of nothing but [8] **reverence** before her, who can tell you how to manage her as if she were a baby, who do nothing but nurse her all their lives, who, with humble [9] **affectation,** follow with profound [10] **subservience,** lead her and her whole troop after them; who, in hooking one, hook all and bear them off as Lemuel Gulliver bore away the stately fleet of the majestic Lilliput.

EXERCISE 11-1

Select the best answer from the choices.

1. In context, **eminent** most nearly means

   A. inevitable
   B. slight
   C. famous and respected
   D. warm and agreeable

2. In context, **foppish** most nearly means

   A. wicked and manipulative
   B. excessively fancy and trendy
   C. loose and floppy
   D. casual and understated

3. In context, **microcosm** most nearly means

   A. small organism
   B. small consideration
   C. small vision
   D. small world

4. In context, **enigmatic** most nearly means

A. mysterious
B. forceful
C. reserved
D. friendly

5. In context, **shortcomings** most nearly means

A. brief life story
B. kudos
C. weaknesses
D. antecedents

6. In context, **caprices** most nearly means

A. whims or impulses
B. firmly held beliefs
C. disappointments and failures
D. dislikes and regrets

7. In context, **deferential** most nearly means

A. instructive
B. secret
C. hateful
D. respectful

8. In context, **reverence** most nearly means

A. constant confusion
B. extreme respect
C. overwhelming ignorance
D. total contempt

9. In context, **affectation** most nearly means

A. strong liking
B. foolish advice
C. widespread acceptance
D. artificial behavior

10. In context, **subservience** most nearly means

A. false expectation
B. insignificant conclusions
C. total obedience
D. foolish whims

Passage 2

Questions 11 to 20 are based on passage 2.

The following passage is adapted from The Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication *by Charles Darwin (1868). Darwin was collecting specimens from all over the world and conducting experiments on plants, all while he was formulating his groundbreaking theories on heredity. Some of the words from the original text have been changed to vocabulary words from this book, but the meanings remain essentially the same.*

In scientific investigations it is permitted to invent any hypothesis, and if it explains various large and independent classes of facts it rises to the rank of a well-grounded theory. The [11] **undulations** of the ether and even its existence are hypothetical, yet every one now admits the undulatory theory of light. The principle of natural selection may be looked at as a mere hypothesis, but [12] **rendered** in some degree probable by what we positively know of the variability of organic beings in a state of nature,—by what we positively know of the struggle for existence, and the consequent almost inevitable preservation of [13] **auspicious** variations,—and from the [14] **analogous** formation of domestic races. Now this hypothesis may be tested . . .

I shall try the principle of natural selection by seeing how far it will give a fair explanation of the several classes of facts just [15] **alluded** to. It was the consideration of these facts which first led me to take up the present subject. When I visited, during the voyage of H.M.S. *Beagle*, the Galapagos Archipelago, situated in the Pacific Ocean about 500 miles from the shore of South America, I found myself surrounded by peculiar and [16] **bountiful** species of birds, reptiles, and plants, existing nowhere else in the world. Yet they nearly all bore an American stamp. In the song of the mocking-thrush, in the harsh cry of the carrion-hawk, in the great candlestick-like opuntias, I clearly [17] **discerned** the [18] **provenance** of America, though the islands were separated by so many miles of ocean from the mainland, and differed much from it in their geological constitution and climate. Still more surprising was the fact that most of the inhabitants of each separate island in this small archipelago were specifically different, though most closely related to each other. The archipelago, with its innumerable craters and bare streams of lava, appeared to be of recent origin; and thus I fancied myself brought near to the very act of creation. I often asked myself how these many peculiar animals and plants had been produced: the simplest answer seemed to be that the inhabitants of the several islands had descended from each other, undergoing modification

in the course of their descent; and that all the inhabitants of the archipelago had descended from those of the nearest land, namely America, whence colonists would naturally have been derived. But it long remained to me an [19] **abstruse** problem how the necessary degree of modification could have been [20] **effected**, and it would have thus remained for ever, had I not studied domestic productions, and thus acquired a just idea of the power of Selection. As soon as I had fully realized this idea, I saw, on reading Malthus on Population, that Natural Selection was the inevitable result of the rapid increase of all organic beings; for I was prepared to appreciate the struggle for existence by having long studied the habits of animals.

EXERCISE 11-2

Select the best answer from the choices.

11. In context, **undulations** most nearly means

A. excesses
B. pervasiveness
C. wave-like movements
D. real-life properties

12. In context, **rendered** most nearly means

A. decreased in intensity
B. not able to be proved
C. mostly not able to be unseen
D. caused to become

13. In context, **auspicious** most nearly means

A. unlikely
B. favorable
C. similar
D. misshapen

14. In context, **analogous** most nearly means

A. similar
B. indistinct
C. exotic
D. vague

15. In context, **alluded** most nearly means

A. appraised

B. disdained
C. exhumed
D. referred

16. In context, **bountiful** most nearly means

A. abundant
B. authentic
C. diffuse
D. salubrious

17. In context, **discerned** most nearly means

A. deprecated
B. manifested
C. perceived
D. ordained

18. In context, **provenance** most nearly means

A. need for acceptance
B. quality of inefficacy
C. state of virulence
D. place of origin

19. In context, **abstruse** most nearly means

A. beneficent and compassionate
B. acute and painful
C. difficult to understand
D. long desired

20. In context, **effected** most nearly means

A. eradicated
B. brought about
C. aggregated
D. revered

Passage 3

Questions 21 to 32 are based on passage 3.

The following passage is adapted from Ancient Art and Ritual *(1913) by Jane Ellen Harrison, a British classical scholar of Greek art and archeology. In this selection, Harrison explains the connection of art to ritual and her claim that mankind has always used rituals to celebrate important milestones*

in life's journey. Some of the words from the original text have been changed to vocabulary words from this book, but the meanings remain essentially the same.

The title of this book may strike the reader as strange and even [21] **discordant.** What have art and ritual to do together? The ritualist is, to the modern mind, a man concerned perhaps unduly with fixed forms and ceremonies, with carrying out the rigidly prescribed ordinances of a church or sect. The artist, on the other hand, we think of as free in thought and [22] **unfettered** by [23] **convention** in practice; his tendency is toward licence. Art and ritual, it is quite true, have diverged to-day; but the title of this book is chosen advisedly. Its object is to show that these two divergent developments have a common root, and that neither can be understood without the other. It is at the outset one and the same [24] **impetus** that sends a man to church and to the theatre.

Such a statement may sound to-day [25] **paradoxical**, even irreverent. But to the Greek of the sixth, fifth, and even fourth century B.C., it would have been a simple truism. We shall see this best by following an Athenian to his theatre, on the day of the great Spring Festival of Dionysos.

Passing through the entrance-gate to the theatre on the south side of the Acropolis, our Athenian citizen will find himself at once on [26] **sacrosanct** ground. He is within a *temenos* or precinct, a place "cut off" from the common land and dedicated to a god. He will pass to the left two temples standing near to each other, one of earlier, the other of later date, for a temple, once built, was so [27] **exalted** that it would only be reluctantly destroyed. As he enters the actual theatre he will pay nothing for his seat; his attendance is an act of [28] **piety**, and from the social point of view obligatory; the entrance fee is therefore paid for him by the State.

The theatre is open to all Athenian citizens, but the ordinary man will not venture to seat himself in the front row. In the front row, and that only, the seats have backs, and the central seat of this row is an armchair; the whole of the front row is permanently reserved, not for individual rich men who can afford to hire "boxes," but for certain State officials, and these officials are all priests. . . . It is as though at His Majesty's the front row of stalls was occupied by the whole bench of bishops, with the Archbishop of Canterbury [29] **enthroned** in the central stall.

The theatre at Athens is not open night by night, nor even day by day. . . . Another point of contrast is in the time allotted to the performance. We give to the theatre our after-dinner hours, as a

recreation when work is done, or at best a couple of hours in the afternoon. The theatre is for us a recreation. The Greek theatre opened at sunrise, and the whole day was [30] **consecrated** to high and strenuous religious attention. During the five or six days of the great *Dionysia*, the whole city was in a state of [31] **unwonted** sanctity, under a *taboo*. To distrain a debtor was illegal; any personal assault, however [32] **trifling**, was sacrilege.

EXERCISE 11-3

Select the best answer from the choices.

21. In context, **discordant** most nearly means

A. with arrogance
B. acerbic
C. meager
D. without harmony

22. In context, **unfettered** most nearly means

A. uninterested
B. unrestrained
C. ungainly
D. unrequited

23. In context, **convention** most nearly means

A. tradition
B. meeting
C. rarity
D. illusion

24. In context, **impetus** most nearly means

A. impact
B. impulse
C. impunity
D. imperial

25. In context, **paradoxical** most nearly means

A. exemplary
B. austere
C. detrimental
D. contradictory

26. In context, **sacrosanct** most nearly means

A. uneven
B. perilous
C. holy
D. elusive

27. In context, **exalted** most nearly means

A. very desolated
B. somewhat obsolete
C. highly regarded
D. anachronistic

28. In context, **piety** most nearly means

A. malice
B. enmity
C. insulting behavior
D. religious devotion

29. In context, **enthroned** most nearly means

A. removed from a throne
B. seated on a throne
C. awarded a throne
D. in view of a throne

30. In context, **consecrated** most nearly means

A. likened
B. flaunted
C. allocated
D. dedicated

31. In context, **unwonted** most nearly means

A. unaccustomed
B. usurped
C. traditional
D. unadvised

32. In context, **trifling** most nearly means

A. monumental
B. insignificant
C. incorrigible
D. esteemed

Passage 4

Questions 33 to 44 are based on passage 4.

The following passage is adapted from The Scarlet Letter *(1850) by Nathaniel Hawthorne, an American author. In this scene, Hester Prynne emerges from the prison in which she has been confined for committing the crime of adultery. A crowd of townspeople has gathered around the prison to watch her as she walks out. On her dress over her heart, she is wearing a scarlet embroidered letter* A. *Some of the words from the original text have been changed to vocabulary words from this book, but the meanings remain essentially the same.*

When the young woman—the mother of this child—stood fully revealed before the crowd, it seemed to be her first impulse to clasp the infant closely to her bosom; not so much by an impulse of motherly affection, as that she might thereby [33] **obscure** a certain token, which was wrought or fastened into her dress. In a moment, however, wisely judging that one token of her shame would but poorly serve to hide another, she took the baby on her arm, and, with a burning blush, and yet an [34] **indomitable** smile, and a glance that would not be abashed, looked around at her townspeople and neighbors. On the breast of her gown, in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery and [35] **ornate** flourishes of gold thread, appeared the letter *A*. It was so artistically done, and with so much fertility and [36] **meticulous** luxuriance of fancy, that it had all the effect of a last and fitting decoration to the apparel which she wore and which was of a splendor in accordance with the taste of the age, but greatly beyond what was allowed by the [37] **austere** regulations of the colony.

The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so [38] **luminous** that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam, and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was lady-like, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterized by a certain state and dignity, rather than by the delicate, [39] **ephemeral,** and [40] **ineffable** grace, which is now recognized as its indication. And never had Hester Prynne appeared more lady-like, in the [41] **antiquated** interpretation of the term, than as she issued from the prison. Those who had before known her, and had expected to behold her dimmed and obscured by a [42] **pernicious** cloud, were astonished, and even [43] **incredulous**, to perceive how her beauty shone out, and made a halo of the misfortune and [44]

ignominy in which she was enveloped. It may be true, that, to a sensitive observer, there was something exquisitely painful in it. Her attire, which, indeed, she had wrought for the occasion, in prison, and had modelled much after her own fancy, seemed to express the attitude of her spirit, the desperate recklessness of her mood, by its wild and picturesque peculiarity.

EXERCISE 11-4

Select the best answer from the choices.

33. In context, **obscure** most nearly means

A. reveal
B. create
C. instill
D. hide

34. In context, **indomitable** most nearly means

A. pleasant
B. undefeatable
C. sarcastic
D. comical

35. In context, **ornate** most nearly means

A. fancy
B. blackish
C. plain
D. repetitive

36. In context, **meticulous** most nearly means

A. quickly put together
B. carefully attentive to detail
C. subtle and understated
D. barely visible

37. In context, **austere** most nearly means

A. harsh
B. long-winded
C. lenient
D. judicious

38. In context, **luminous** most nearly means

A. elusive
B. simple
C. glowing
D. wild

39. In context, **ephemeral** most nearly means

A. short-lived
B. slender
C. foolish
D. praise-worthy

40. In context, **ineffable** most nearly means

A. courageous
B. friendly and warm
C. practiced and artificial
D. unable to be expressed in words

41. In context, **antiquated** most nearly means

A. very valuable
B. very beautiful
C. very old
D. very scholarly

42. In context, **pernicious** most nearly means

A. fluffy
B. harmful
C. fantastic
D. pleasant

43. In context, **incredulous** most nearly means

A. convinced
B. disbelieving
C. proud
D. uncaring

44. In context, **ignominy** most nearly means

A. disgrace
B. innocence
C. individuality
D. conventionality

Answer Key

1
Analysis Skills

EXERCISE 1–1

(In exercise 1-1, the even numbered questions may have a variety of answers.)

1. The prefix *ambi-* means **both.**
2. Some examples of words that begin with the prefix *ambi-* are ambivalent (seeing both sides), ambidextrous (skillful with both hands), ambiguous (having more than one meaning).
3. The prefix *mal-* means **bad.**
4. Some examples of words that begin with the prefix *mal-* are malign (to speak badly of), malefactor (one who does bad things), malignant (evil or harmful).
5. The root *bio* means **life.**
6. Some examples of words with the root *bio* are biology (the study of life forms), biography (the story of someone's life), biosphere (regions occupied by living organisms).
7. The root *demo* means **people.**
8. Some examples of words with the root *demo* are democracy (government by the people), demagogue (a leader who makes false promises to the people), demographics (statistics relating to people).
9. The root *laud* means **praise.**
10. Some examples of words with the root *laud* are laudatory (expressing praise), plaudits (praises or honors), laud (to praise).

11. The root *nov* means **new.**

12. Some examples of words with the root n*ov* are novelty (something new and different), innovation (a new idea or process), novel (new).

13. The root *mort* means **death.**

14. Some examples of words with the root *mor(t)* are mortuary (a place where dead bodies are kept), moribund (dying), immortal (never dying).

15. The root *spec* means **to look.**

16. Some examples of words with the root *spec* are spectacles (glasses to help you see), spectators (those who watch), inspect (to look at carefully).

17. The root *voc* means **voice.**

18. Some examples of words with the root *voc* are vocal (outspoken), revoke (to retract what was said), invoke (to call up), advocate (to speak in favor of).

19. The suffix *-philo* means **love of.**

20. Some examples of words with the suffix *-philo* are bibliophile (lover of books), technophile (lover of technology), and anglophile (a lover of England).

EXERCISE 1–2

1. **B**

   Magnanimous is the best choice because it means generous. (*magna* means great or large)

2. **A**

   Neologism is the best choice because it means a new word. (*neo-* means new)

3. **C**

   Monopoly is the best choice because it means control by one group. (*mono-* means one)

4. **B**

   Circumnavigating is the best choice because it means to navigate around something, especially the world. (*circum-* means around)

5. **C**

Pseudonym is the best choice because it means a false name. (*pseudo-* means false)

6. **D**

   Pacifist is the best choice because it means a lover of peace. (*pac* means peace)

7. **B**

   Chronologically is the best choice because it means in time order. (*chron* means time)

8. **A**

   Belligerently is the best choice because it means in a hostile or war-like manner. (*belli* means war)

9. **C**

   Circumscribe is the best choice because it means to limit or restrict. (*circum* means around and *scribe* means to write. If you write around something, you create a border or a limitation.)

10. **B**

    Novel is the best choice because it means something new or unprecedented (never happened before). (*nov* means new; *un-* means not; *pre-* means before; and *ced* means to go)

2
Positive Meanings

EXERCISE 2–1

1. **C**

   Lucid is the best choice because it means clear and logical.

2. **A**

   Shy is the best opposite of gregarious; gregarious means sociable, and shy means timid and reserved around other people.

3. **C**

   Vivacious and **effervescent** both mean lively.

4. **D**

Something **sacrosanct** is also considered holy.

5. **C**

   It is important for an ambassador to be **diplomatic**, to handle situations tactfully.

6. **A**

   Amiable is a synonym for friendly.

7. **B**

   Laughter is a synonym for mirth.

8. **D**

   Prominent means important or famous.

9. **C**

   Luminous means shining or glowing.

10. **A**

    Scrupulous is a synonym for attentive to details.

EXERCISE 2–2

1. **Sagacious**

   Sagacious means wise and is the best choice to fit the context clue "known for his wise advice."

2. **Alacrity**

   Alacrity means cheerful promptness and is the best choice to fit the context clue "recognized for his promptness and great attitude."

3. **Tenacious**

   Tenacious means holding firmly, which fits the context clue of gripping a tree branch in a raging river.

4. **Prolific**

   Prolific means producing a lot, which fits the description of an author who has written 62 novels and over 200 short stories.

5. **Indefatigable**

   Indefatigable means never getting tired, which fits the description of a 60-year-old person who can ride a bike, swim, play tennis, and then dance.

6. **Bliss**

   Bliss means happiness or joy, which describes the feeling of jumping into a pool on a hot summer day.

7. **Acclaim**

   Acclaim means praise, which fits with the context clue of moving audiences to standing ovations.

8. **Fervor**

   Fervor means passion, which fits the description of a baseball fanatic who would travel to Florida just to watch the team practice.

9. **Acumen**

   Acumen is quickness of intellectual insight, which fits the description of someone who can handle money with intelligence and insight.

10. **Salubrious**

    Salubrious means healthful or beneficial, which describes the refreshing country air.

3
Negative Meanings

EXERCISE 3–1

1. **B**

   Ungainly means clumsy, which is the best choice to describe someone tripping over his own feet.

2. **D**

   Ruthless means merciless, which is the best choice to describe one who destroys a whole village.

3. **C**

   Petulant means childishly irritable, which is the best choice to describe a cranky child.

4. **D**

   Coerce means to convince using force, which fits best with the clue

of “threatening their pensions.”

5. **B**

   Subservient means prepared to obey without question; all the other words mean “tending to fight or argue.”

6. **A**

   Tirade means an angry abusive speech, which is the best choice to refer to an angry speech.

7. **C**

   Exacerbated means worsened, which is the best choice for the sentence because it is the opposite of “smooth over” and “calm angry tempers.”

8. **D**

   Vindictive means vengeful, which is the best choice to describe someone who wants to get revenge.

9. **C**

   Meager means lacking in quantity or insufficient, which is the best choice to contrast with “bountiful.”

10. **A**

    Ignominious means shameful, or disgraceful, which is the best choice to describe a scheme that cost people their life savings.

EXERCISE 3–2

1. **J**

   Both belligerent and **pugnacious** mean tending to fight.

2. **H**

   Both detrimental and **deleterious** mean harmful.

3. **G**

   Imprudent means **rash** or acting quickly and incautiously.

4. **F**

   Scurrilous means **slanderous** or spreading malicious lies about a person or thing.

5. **A**

   Abject means **wretched** or in a very unhappy or unfortunate state.

6. **I**

   Venal means open to corruption (or **corruptible**).

7. **E**

   Ominous means **threatening**.

8. **D**

   Spurious means **bogus** or false.

9. **B**

   Both acrimony and **rancor** mean bitterness.

10. **C**

    Recalcitrant means **uncooperative**.

4
Literary Works

EXERCISE 4–1

1. **Prodigal**

   Prodigal means wasteful, which best fits the context as the opposite of thrifty.

2. **Solitude**

   Solitude means aloneness, which best fits into the context of being trapped alone on an island.

3. **Aesthetic**

   Aesthetic means the appreciation of beauty, which best fits in the context of "gazing at all the beauty around her."

4. **Renounce**

   Renounce means to reject a formerly held belief, which best fits the context of having to give up a religion to survive.

5. **Meekness**

   Meekness means timidity or shyness, which best fits the context of not speaking up for oneself.

6. **Irksome**

   Irksome means annoying, which best conveys the feeling of a conscientious person being grouped with slackers.

7. **Rudimentary**

   Rudimentary means basic, which best fits the context of having little knowledge of a car engine.

8. **Inexorable**

   Inexorable means unstoppable, which best fits the context of an army's march against an enemy.

9. **Stupefy**

   To stupefy means to stun or render someone unable to think properly, which best fits the context of putting someone under a spell. (BTW: This spell is called The Stunner at Hogwarts!)

10. **Fastidious**

    Fastidious means very fussy about details, which best describes one who would rip out an entire sweater to repair a slipped stitch in the first row.

11. **Exhumed**

    Exhumed means dug up or unearthed, which best fits the context of a skull uncovered by grave diggers. (BTW: Hamlet recognizes the skull as that of Yorick, his father's long-dead jester.)

12. **Ornate**

    Ornate means fancy or highly decorated, which fits the context as a contrast with simple designs.

13. **Entice**

    Entice means to tempt—and who wouldn't be enticed to come inside by homemade chocolate chip cookies!

14. **Incredulous**

    Incredulous means disbelieving, which best describes the reaction of those who never expect to defeat the state champions.

15. **Enigma**

    An enigma is a mystery or a puzzle, which best fits the context of "solve" and "missing funds."

EXERCISE 4–2

1. **C**

   Trifling means unimportant, so the best antonym is **important**.

2. **A**

   Prim means proper, so the best antonym is **improper**.

3. **D**

   Naïveté means lack of sophistication, so the best antonym is **sophistication**.

4. **B**

   Repose means rest, so the best antonym is **activity**.

5. **B**

   Gaudy means too bright and showy, so the best antonym is **plain**.

6. **A**

   Indelible means permanent, so the best antonym is **impermanent**.

7. **D**

   Affluent means rich, so the best antonym is **poor**.

8. **C**

   An anomaly is an irregularity or an abnormality, so the best antonym is **regularity**.

9. **B**

   Clandestine means secret or hidden, so the best antonym is **unconcealed**.

10. **C**

    Fatuous means stupid or silly, so the best antonym is **intelligent**.

5
Historical Works

EXERCISE 5–1

1. **D**

   Promulgate (to publish or proclaim) is the best choice to fit the context of announcing news in a website.

2. **A**

   Onerous (burdensome) is the best choice to describe sifting through thousands of papers.

3. **D**

   Impunity (freedom from punishment) is the best choice to fit the context of "never one to consider consequences."

4. **C**

   Remonstrance (a strongly worded protest) is the best choice to fit the context of a reprimand from the guard.

5. **D**

   Nefarious (wicked) is the best choice to describe a dictator who imprisoned and tortured innocent citizens.

6. **B**

   Matriarchy (rule by women) is the best choice to describe a society in which the mother has the final word.

7. **C**

   Disconsolate (sad and despondent) is the best choice to describe Emma's feelings after the death of her dog.

8. **A**

   Reprisal (retaliation) is the best choice to describe the acts of the enemy troops in response to the assassination of their leader.

9. **D**

   Abode (home) is the best choice to fit the living quarters of the hermit.

10. **B**

    Fetter (a form of restraint) is the best choice to refer to something that restricts freedoms.

11. **C**

    Wrested (forcibly pulled from another's grasp) is the best choice for the action of removing a sword from an opponent's grasp.

12. **D**

    Piety (religious devotion) is the best choice to fit the context clue "devote her life to God."

13. **A**

    Advent (birth or beginning) is the best choice to fit the context of the invention of the printing press.

14. **C**

    Want (lack) is the best choice to fit the context of lacking the good sense to wear a seat belt on a roller coaster.

15. **B**

    Undaunted (unafraid) is the best choice to fit the context of the students who are unafraid to tackle the piles of garbage.

EXERCISE 5–2

1. A synonym word for brothers is **brethren.**
2. A synonym for ardor is **passion**.
3. A synonym for retaliation is **reprisal.**
4. A synonym for pattern is **paradigm.**
5. A synonym for fatherly is **paternal.**
6. An antonym for wont is **unaccustomed.**
7. An antonym for easily defeated is **indomitable.**
8. An antonym for certain is **dubious.**
9. An antonym for asunder is **united.**
10. An antonym for generous is **miserly**.

6
Social Science Works

EXERCISE 6–1

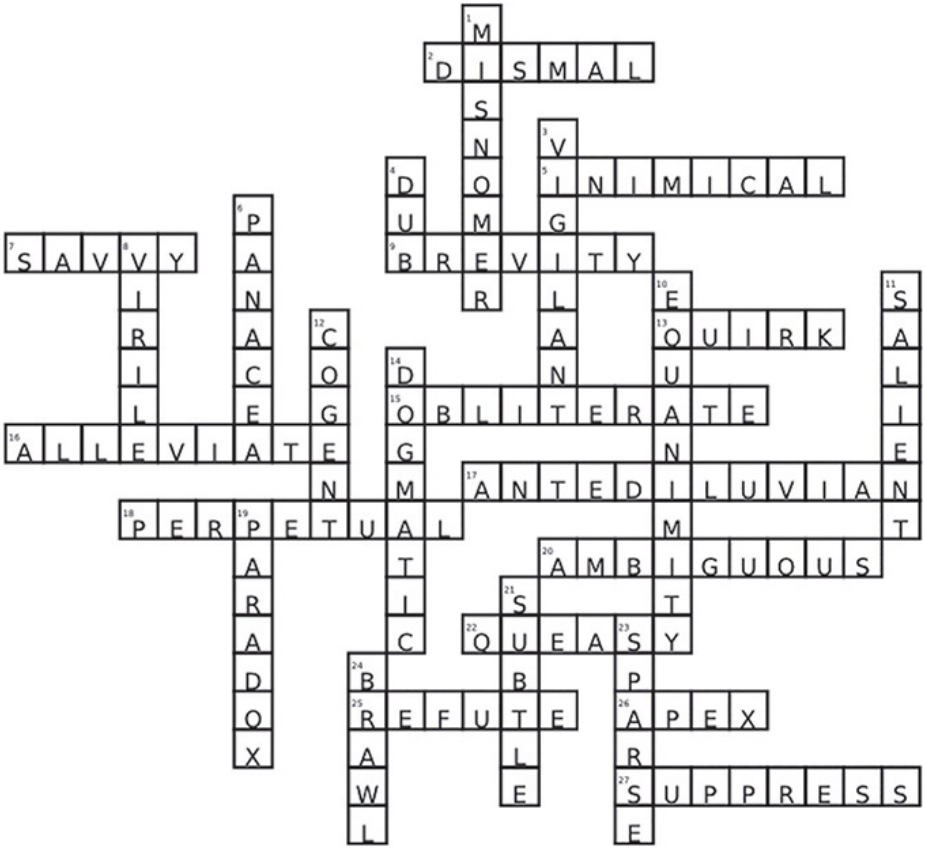
Down:

1. wrong name: **misnomer**
2. watchful: **vigilant**
4. to name: **dub**
6. a cure-all: **panacea**
8. masculine: **virile**
10. calmness: **equanimity**
11. most important: **salient**
12. logical and convincing: **cogent**
14. stubbornly opinionated: **dogmatic**
19. an apparent contradiction: **paradox**
21. understated: **subtle**
23. thinly dispersed: **sparse**
24. fight: **brawl**

Across:

2. dreary: **dismal**
5. harmful: **inimical**
7. sharp-witted: **savvy**
9. briefness: **brevity**
13. odd habit or peculiarity: **quirk**
15. to destroy: **obliterate**
16. to relieve: **alleviate**
17. very old: **antediluvian**
18. never-ending: **perpetual**
20. vague and unclear: **ambiguous**
22. nauseated: **queasy**
25. to disprove: **refute**
26. highest point: **apex**
27. to crush: **suppress**

Your completed crossword should look like this:



7
Science Works

EXERCISE 7–1

1. **Eradicate** is the best word to fit the context of getting rid of a disease.
2. **Inherent** is the best word to fit the context of essential kindness and compassion.
3. **Versatile** is the best word to fit the context of someone able to play many sports.
4. **Flagrant** is the best choice to fit the context of something so obvious that others are forced to take notice.

5. **Feral** is the best word to fit the context of an animal from the wild that may not be able to be domesticated.
6. **Abstruse** is the best word to fit the context of a difficult to solve physics problem.
7. **Obscure** is the best word to fit the context of the shadow of the moon hiding the sun.
8. **Contend** is the best word to fit the context of dealing with difficult conditions like a howling wind and low temperatures.
9. **Luminous** is the best word to fit the context of the moon's glow.
10. **Scrutinize** is the best word to fit the context of carefully examining a document under a magnifying glass.

EXERCISE 7–2

1. **F**

   The best synonym for disparity is **inequality**.
2. **I**

   The best synonym for idiosyncrasy is **quirk**.
3. **H**

   The best synonym for myriad is **many**.
4. **J**

   The best synonym for adept is **adroit.**
5. **G**

   The best synonym for pervasive is **widespread**.
6. **C**

   The best synonym for inefficacious is **ineffective**.
7. **E**

   The best synonym for pristine is **unspoiled.**
8. **A**

   The best synonym for enervate is **weaken.**
9. **D**

   The best synonym for unstinting is **generous.**
10. **B**

The best synonym for amorphous is **shapeless.**

8
Commonly Confused Words

EXERCISE 8–1

1. **Whom**

   Whom is the correct choice because it is the object of the preposition *for*.

2. **Affect**

   Affect is the correct choice because it is the verb that means to influence.

3. **Than**

   Than is the correct choice because it is used to compare this year's French class to last year's.

4. **Effect; diffused**

   Effect is the correct choice because it is a noun that means the result. Diffused is correct because it is a verb that means scattered thinly.

5. **Contempt; who's**

   Contempt is the correct word to express a feeling of scorn. Who's is the correct choice because it is the contraction of *who is.*

6. **Site**

   Site is the correct choice because it is the word that means location.

7. **Who; censored**

   Who is the correct choice because it is the subject of the verb *censored.* Censored is the correct choice because it means to ban parts of a film or movie.

8. **Then**

   Then is the correct choice because then means at that time.

9. **Effected**

Effected is the correct choice because the verb to effect means to bring about change.

10. **Loath**

    Loath is the correct choice because it is an adjective that means reluctant.

11. **Led**

    Led is the correct choice because it is the past tense of the verb to lead.

12. **Cite**

    Cite is the correct choice because cite means to list a source.

13. **Advice**

    Advice is the correct choice because advice is a noun that means guidance.

14. **Ensure**

    Ensure is the correct choice because it is a verb that means to guarantee or make sure.

15. **Complement**

    Complement is the correct choice because it means something that completes or enhances.

16. **Averse**

    Averse is the correct choice because it is an adjective that means opposed.

17. **Conscious**

    Conscious is the correct choice because it is an adjective that means awake and aware.

18. **Elicit; uninterested**

    Elicit is the correct choice because it means to draw out a response. Uninterested is the correct choice because it means not interested.

19. **Loathe**

    Loathe is the correct choice because it is a verb that means to hate.

20. **Infer**

    Infer is the correct choice because it means to deduce from something not directly stated.

21. **Flout**

    Flout is the correct choice because it means to defy.

22. **Imply**

    Imply is the correct choice because it means to hint without directly stating.

23. **Accept**

    Accept is the correct choice because it means to receive.

24. **Illusion**

    Illusion is the correct choice because it means a vision or a deception.

25. **Eminent**

    Eminent is the correct choice because it means well-known.

9
Transitional Words

EXERCISE 9–1

1. **Consequently**

   Consequently is the best transitional word because it indicates that *as a result* of not using the GPS, mom got lost.

2. **Nevertheless**

   Nevertheless is the best transitional word because it indicates that *in spite of* the snow, the parade went on.

3. **Whereby**

   Whereby is the best transitional word because it indicates that Lettie made arrangements *by which* she could arrive late to work.

4. **Subsequently**

   Subsequently is the best transitional word because it indicates that writing improvement *came after* vocabulary study. (As I knew it would!)

5. **Thereby**

Thereby is the best transitional word because it indicates that *as a result of* exercise, the likelihood of a heart attack is reduced.

6. **Whereas**

   Whereas is the best transitional word because it indicates *a contrast* between students who love the salad bar and those who find it inconvenient.

7. **Albeit**

   Albeit is the best transitional word because it indicates the play was well-acted *even though* it was too long.

8. **Nonetheless**

   Nonetheless is the best transitional word because it indicates that, *in spite of* its length, *Crime and Punishment* is a fast and fascinating read.

9. **Lest**

   Lest is the best transitional word because it indicates that we left early *to avoid the risk* of arriving late.

10. **Accordingly**

    Accordingly is the best transitional word because it indicates that changing the test was *the appropriate action* for Mr. Ryan to take.

11. **Hence**

    Hence is the best transitional word because it indicates the cloud cover is *the reason* we will try to view the moon another night.

12. **Notwithstanding**

    Notwithstanding is the best transitional word because it indicates that, *in spite of* some students' preference for an amusement park, we will go ahead with plans for a senior picnic.

10
Literary Terms

EXERCISE 10–1

1. **D**

"Each student is an explorer of his or her destiny" is a metaphor: students are directly compared to explorers.

2. **E**

"The fireworks sizzled and popped" is an example of onomatopoeia. "Sizzled" and "popped" imitate the sound of fireworks.

3. **H**

"I felt the sun kiss my face when I walked outside" is an example of personification because the sun is given the human ability to kiss.

4. **I**

"I asked my teacher for his unbiased opinion" contains the oxymoron "unbiased opinion." An opinion, by definition, is an expression of a view or judgment of the speaker, so it cannot be "unbiased," or not based on personal judgment.

5. **G**

"She sat silently facing the seamless sea" is an example of alliteration because of the repetition of the initial consonant sound of "s."

6. **A**

A firehouse that burns down is an example of irony because it presents an unexpected or "twisted" event. No one would expect a fire in a firehouse.

7. **J**

Julius Caesar reading a book is an anachronism because there were no books (as we know them) in ancient Rome. If instead he was said to be reading a scroll, it would not have been an anachronism.

8. **F**

"A negative cash flow" is a euphemistic way of saying you have no money.

9. **C**

When Icarus straps on wax wings and tries to fly to the sun, he is guilty of hubris, excessive pride or over-confidence in his abilities.

10. **B**

Studying "a thousand hours" in one night is clearly a hyperbole, a gross exaggeration to emphasize how much time you studied.

11
Vocabulary in Context

EXERCISE 11–1

1. **C**

   Eminent most nearly means **famous and respected**. (See Chapter 8, word 15.)

2. **B**

   Foppish most nearly means **excessively fancy and trendy** (in dress and behavior). (See Chapter 4, word 40.)

3. **D**

   Microcosm most nearly means a **small world**. (See Chapter 7, word 39.)

4. **A**

   Enigmatic most nearly means **mysterious**. (See Chapter 4, word 30.)

5. **C**

   Shortcomings most nearly means **weaknesses**. (See Chapter 6, word 59.)

6. **A**

   Caprices most nearly means **whims or impulses**. (See Chapter 5, word 13.)

7. **D**

   Deferential most nearly means **respectful**. (See Chapter 2, word 24.)

8. **B**

   Reverence most nearly means **extreme respect**. (See Chapter 4, word 63.)

9. **D**

   Affectation most nearly means **artificial behavior**. (See Chapter 4, word 3.)

10. C

Subservience most nearly means **total obedience**. (See Chapter 3, word 62.)

EXERCISE 11–2

11. C

Undulations most nearly means a **wave-like** motion. (See Chapter 7, word 64.)

12. D

Rendered most nearly means **caused to become**. (See Chapter 5, word 57.)

13. B

Auspicious most nearly means **favorable**. (See Chapter 2, word 10.)

14. A

Analogous most nearly means **similar.** (See Chapter 6, word 8.)

15. D

Alluded most nearly means **referred**. (See Chapter 4, word 6.)

16. A

Bountiful most nearly means **abundant**. (See Chapter 2, word 14.)

17. C

Discerned most nearly means **perceived**. (See Chapter 2, word 26.)

18. D

Provenance most nearly means **place of origin**. (See Chapter 4, word 59.)

19. C

Abstruse most nearly means **difficult to understand**. (See Chapter 7, word 1.)

20. B

Effected most nearly means **brought about**. (See Chapter 8, word 4.)

EXERCISE 11–3

21. D

Discordant most nearly means **without harmony**. (See Chapter 3, word 28.)

22. B

Unfettered most nearly means **unrestrained**. (See Chapter 5, word 26.)

23. A

Convention most nearly means **tradition**. (See Chapter 4, word 22.)

24. B

Impetus most nearly means **impulse**. (See Chapter 7, word 26.)

25. D

Paradoxical most nearly means **contradictory**. (See Chapter 6, word 46.)

26. C

Sacrosanct most nearly means **holy**. (See Chapter 2, word 56.)

27. C

Exalted most nearly means **highly regarded.** (See Chapter 2, word 33.)

28. D

Piety most nearly means **religious devotion**. (See Chapter 5, word 52.)

29. B

Enthroned most nearly means **seated on a throne**. (See Chapter 5, word 23.)

30. D

Consecrated most nearly means **dedicated**. (See Chapter 4, word 21.)

31. A

Unwonted most nearly means **unaccustomed**. (See Chapter 5, word 68.)

32. B

Trifling most nearly means **insignificant**. (See Chapter 4, word 69.)

EXERCISE 11–4

33. D

Obscure most nearly means **hide**. (See Chapter 7, word 43.)

34. B

Indomitable most nearly means **undefeatable**. (See Chapter 5, word 34.)

35. A

Ornate most nearly means **fancy**. (See Chapter 4, word 54.)

36. B

Meticulous most nearly means **carefully attentive to detail**. (See Chapter 7, word 38.)

37. A

Austere most nearly means **harsh**. (See Chapter 4, word 14.)

38. C

Luminous most nearly means **glowing**. (See Chapter 7, word 35.)

39. A

Ephemeral most nearly means **short-lived**. (See Chapter 4, word 32.)

40. D

Ineffable most nearly means **unable to be expressed in words**. (See Chapter 2, word 43.)

41. C

Antiquated most nearly means **very old**. (See Chapter 6, word 12.)

42. B

Pernicious most nearly means **harmful**. (See Chapter 3, word 50.)

43. B

Incredulous most nearly means **disbelieving**. (See Chapter 4, word 43.)

44. A

Ignominy most nearly means **disgrace.** (See Chapter 3, word 37.)

Appendix

Master List of Must Know Words

The number following each word indicates the chapter in which the word is defined.

1. Aberration (6)
2. Abhor (3)
3. Abject (3)
4. Abode (5)
5. Abrogate (5)
6. Abstruse (7)
7. Abysmal (3)
8. Accede (6)
9. Accept (8)
10. Acclaim (2)
11. Accolade (2)
12. Accordingly (9)
13. Accost (4)
14. Accretion (7)
15. Acerbic (3)
16. Acrimony (3)
17. Acumen (2)
18. Adept (7)
19. Admonish (3)
20. Adroit (7)

21. Adulation (2)
22. Advent (5)
23. Adversarial (3)
24. Adverse (8)
25. Advice (8)
26. Advise (8)
27. Advocate (2)
28. Aesthetic (4)
29. Affable (2)
30. Affect (8)
31. Affectation (4)
32. Affirmative (2)
33. Affluent (4)
34. Aggregate (7)
35. Agile (7)
36. Alacrity (2)
37. Albeit (9)
38. Alias (4)
39. Alienate (5)
40. Allegory (10)
41. Alleviate (6)
42. Alliteration (10)
43. Allocate (6)
44. Allude (4)
45. Allusion (8)
46. Aloof (3)
47. Altercation (6)
48. Altruism (6)
49. Ambiguous (6)
50. Ambivalent (4)

51. Amiable (2)
52. Amorphous (7)
53. Anachronism (10)
54. Analogous (6)
55. Anathema (3)
56. Anecdote (4)
57. Anguish (4)
58. Animated (4)
59. Annihilate (6)
60. Anomaly (4)
61. Antagonism (3)
62. Antecedent (6)
63. Antediluvian (6)
64. Antipathy (3)
65. Antiquated (6)
66. Antithesis (6)
67. Anxiety (4)
68. Apathetic (3)
69. Apex (6)
70. Apparition (4)
71. Appraise (8)
72. Apprise (8)
73. Approbation (5)
74. Archetype (10)
75. Ardor (5)
76. Arduous (7)
77. Arrogant (3)
78. Arrogate (5)
79. Assertion (6)
80. Assure (8)

81. Asunder (5)
82. August (5)
83. Auspicious (2)
84. Austere (4)
85. Authentic (6)
86. Avarice (3)
87. Averse (8)
88. Avid (2)
89. Belligerent (3)
90. Beneficent (2)
91. Bequeath (5)
92. Berate (4)
93. Bias (6)
94. Bliss (2)
95. Bombastic (4)
96. Boorish (5)
97. Bountiful (2)
98. Brawl (6)
99. Brethren (5)
100. Brevity (6)
101. Bullish (2)
102. Buoyancy (2)
103. Callous (3)
104. Candor (4)
105. Cantankerous (3)
106. Caprice (5)
107. Catalyst (7)
108. Caustic (3)
109. Celebrated (2)
110. Celerity (4)

111. Censor (8)
112. Censure (8)
113. Chagrin (5)
114. Charismatic (2)
115. Cite (8)
116. Clairvoyant (2)
117. Clandestine (4)
118. Coerce (3)
119. Cogent (6)
120. Cognitive (6)
121. Colloquial (4)
122. Complement (8)
123. Compliment (8)
124. Confluence (6)
125. Congenial (2)
126. Connoisseur (6)
127. Conscience (8)
128. Conscious (8)
129. Consecrate (4)
130. Consequently (9)
131. Contempt (8)
132. Contemptible (3)
133. Contend (7)
134. Content (8)
135. Contingent (7)
136. Conventional (4)
137. Convivial (2)
138. Correctitude (2)
139. Covet (4)
140. Cowed (4)

141. Dauntless (2)
142. Debilitate (3)
143. Deference (2)
144. Defuse (8)
145. Degradation (3)
146. Deleterious (3)
147. Demure (4)
148. Deprecate (3)
149. Desolate (3)
150. Destitute (4)
151. Detrimental (3)
152. Devolve (5)
153. Didactic (4)
154. Diffidence (4)
155. Diffuse (8)
156. Diplomatic (2)
157. Dire (3)
158. Discerning (2)
159. Discomfiture (5)
160. Disconsolate (5)
161. Discord (3)
162. Disdain (3)
163. Disinterested (8)
164. Dismal (6)
165. Disparity (7)
166. Dispassionately (5)
167. Disputatious (3)
168. Dissolute (3)
169. Distinguished (2)
170. Dogmatic (6)

171. Dominion (5)
172. Dormant (7)
173. Droll (4)
174. Dub (6)
175. Dubious (5)
176. Duplicity (3)
177. Ebullient (2)
178. Effect (8)
179. Effervescent (2)
180. Egregious (3)
181. Elicit (8)
182. Eloquent (2)
183. Elusive (7)
184. Eminent (8)
185. Endorse (2)
186. Enervate (7)
187. Enfeeble (5)
188. Enfranchisement (5)
189. Enigma (4)
190. Enmity (3)
191. Ensure (8)
192. Enthroned (5)
193. Entice (4)
194. Ephemeral (4)
195. Epiphany (4)
196. Equanimity (6)
197. Eradicate (7)
198. Erudite (7)
199. Esteem (2)
200. Euphemism (10)

201. Evanescent (6)
202. Evince (4)
203. Exacerbate (3)
204. Exalt (2)
205. Excavation (7)
206. Except (8)
207. Execrate (5)
208. Exemplary (2)
209. Exhilarating (2)
210. Exhume (4)
211. Explicate (7)
212. Expunge (7)
213. Extraneous (7)
214. Façade (4)
215. Facility (7)
216. Fallacious (6)
217. Fanciful (5)
218. Fastidious (4)
219. Fatuous (4)
220. Felicity (2)
221. Feral (7)
222. Fervor (2)
223. Fetish (4)
224. Fetter (5)
225. Figuratively (8)
226. Flagrant (7)
227. Flashback (10)
228. Flaunt (8)
229. Flout (8)
230. Foppish (4)

231. Foreshadowing (10)
232. Fortuitous (2)
233. Frivolity (6)
234. Futile (6)
235. Gaudy (4)
236. Ghastly (3)
237. Gregarious (2)
238. Grievance (5)
239. Grizzled (4)
240. Harmonious (2)
241. Hence (9)
242. Heresy (6)
243. Hubris (10)
244. Hyperbole (10)
245. Idiosyncrasy (7)
246. Ignominious (3)
247. Illicit (8)
248. Illusion (8)
249. Imagery (10)
250. Imminent (8)
251. Immured (5)
252. Imperial (6)
253. Imperishable (5)
254. Impetus (7)
255. Imply (8)
256. Imprudent (3)
257. Impunity (5)
258. Inconstancy (5)
259. Incontestable (5)
260. Incorrigible (3)

261. Incredulous (4)
262. Indefatigable (2)
263. Indelible (4)
264. Indeterminate (7)
265. Indictment (5)
266. Indignation (4)
267. Indomitable (5)
268. Induce (7)
269. Industrious (2)
270. Ineffable (2)
271. Inefficacious (7)
272. Inexorable (4)
273. Infer (8)
274. Ingenuity (2)
275. Ingenuous (4)
276. Inherent (7)
277. Inimical (6)
278. Innocuous (7)
279. Insolent (3)
280. Insure (8)
281. Insurrection (3)
282. Interposition (5)
283. Intrepid (2)
284. Inundate (7)
285. Invaluable (8)
286. Iota (7)
287. Irascible (3)
288. Irksome (4)
289. Irony (10)
290. Itinerant (7)

291. Jocund (2)
292. Judicious (2)
293. Juxtaposition (10)
294. Kudos (2)
295. Lament (4)
296. Lead (8), led (8)
297. Lest (9)
298. Lethargic (6)
299. Liken (5)
300. Literally (8)
301. Loath (8)
302. Loathe (8)
303. Lucid (2)
304. Luminous (7)
305. Malice (3)
306. Malignant (3)
307. Malleable (7)
308. Manifest (5)
309. Marital (5)
310. Matriarchy (5)
311. Meager (3)
312. Median (6)
313. Medley (5)
314. Meekness (4)
315. Meritorious (7)
316. Metaphor (10)
317. Meticulous (7)
318. Mettle (6)
319. Microcosm (7)
320. Mirth (2)

321. Miserly (5)
322. Misnomer (6)
323. Mortify (4)
324. Motif (10)
325. Myriad (7)
326. Mystify (6)
327. Naïveté (4)
328. Nefarious (5)
329. Nevertheless (9)
330. Nonentity (5)
331. Nonetheless (9)
332. Nostalgia (4)
333. Notwithstanding (9)
334. Noxious (7)
335. Obfuscate (7)
336. Objective (6)
337. Obligated (5)
338. Obliterate (6)
339. Obscure (7)
340. Obsolete (6)
341. Obstinacy (5)
342. Odious (3)
343. Ominous (3)
344. Onerous (5)
345. Onomatopoeia (10)
346. Oppress (3)
347. Oracle (5)
348. Ordain (5)
349. Ornate (4)
350. Oxymoron (10)

351. Pacifist (6)
352. Panacea (6)
353. Panoply (6)
354. Paradigm (5)
355. Paradox (6)
356. Parody (4)
357. Paternal (5)
358. Pathogen (7)
359. Patriarchy (5)
360. Perfidious (3)
361. Pernicious (3)
362. Perpetual (6)
363. Personification (10)
364. Pervasive (7)
365. Petty (4)
366. Petulant (3)
367. Phenomenon (6)
368. Pious (Piety) (5)
369. Placebo (6)
370. Plucky (2)
371. Posterity (5)
372. Preclude (7)
373. Predatory (7)
374. Predilection (6)
375. Prevailing (7)
376. Prim (4)
377. Primordial (7)
378. Principled (2)
379. Pristine (7)
380. Prodigal (4)

381. Prodigious (7)
382. Profuse (7)
383. Prolific (2)
384. Promulgate (5)
385. Propitious (7)
386. Prose (10)
387. Provenance (4)
388. Prudent (2)
389. Pugnacious (3)
390. Queasy (6)
391. Querulous (3)
392. Quirk (6)
393. Rancor (3)
394. Rapacious (7)
395. Rash (4)
396. Ravishing (2)
397. Recalcitrant (3)
398. Refuge (5)
399. Refute (6)
400. Remonstrance (5)
401. Rendering (5)
402. Renounce (4)
403. Repose (4)
404. Reprisal (5)
405. Reproach (5)
406. Repudiate (6)
407. Repugnance (3)
408. Retrospective 6)
409. Reverence (4)
410. Riposte (5)

411. Rudimentary (4)
412. Ruthless (3)
413. Sacrosanct (2)
414. Sagacious (2)
415. Salient (6)
416. Salubrious (2)
417. Sanguine (2)
418. Satire (10)
419. Savvy (6)
420. Scathing (3)
421. Scintillating (2)
422. Scrupulous (7)
423. Scrutinize (7)
424. Scurrilous (3)
425. Seemly (2)
426. Self-effacing (6)
427. Sensory (4)
428. Shortcoming (6)
429. Shroud (7)
430. Sight (8)
431. Simile (10)
432. Sinister (3)
433. Site (8)
434. Solitude (4)
435. Sovereignty (5)
436. Sparse (6)
437. Spurious (3)
438. Squalid (6)
439. Squander (6)
440. Squelch (7)

441. Station (5)
442. Stratification (7)
443. Stupefy (4)
444. Stupendous (2)
445. Subjugate (5)
446. Sublime (7)
447. Subsequently (9)
448. Subservient (3)
449. Subtle (6)
450. Sullen (4)
451. Sumptuous (6)
452. Suppress (6)
453. Tactile (7)
454. Teem (7)
455. Tenacious (2)
456. Than (8), then (8)
457. Thereby (9)
458. Tirade (3)
459. Tranquil (7)
460. Travesty (3)
461. Trifling (4)
462. Truculent (3)
463. Unalienable, inalienable (5)
464. Undaunted (5)
465. Undulate (7)
466. Ungainly (3)
467. Unimpeachable (2)
468. Uninterested (8)
469. Unrequited (5)
470. Unstinting (7)

471. Unwavering (7)
472. Upright (2)
473. Usurp (3)
474. Validate (6)
475. Valuable (8)
476. Venal (3)
477. Venerable (2)
478. Vernacular (7)
479. Versatile (7)
480. Vestigial (7)
481. Vexation (4)
482. Vibrant (7)
483. Vigilant (6)
484. Vindication (6)
485. Vindictive (3)
486. Virile (6)
487. Virtuoso (2)
488. Virtuous (2)
489. Virulence (3)
490. Vivacious (2)
491. Vociferous (6)
492. Want (5)
493. Whereas (9)
494. Whereby (9)
495. Who, whom (8)
496. Whose, who's (8)
497. Wont (5)
498. Wrested (5)
499. Yoke (5)
500. Zealous (2)